

CountryLiving

OCTOBER 2014

happy halloween!

78 FUN & EASY IDEAS FOR FALL Pumpkins! Cookies! Crafts!



**Update Your
Bedroom in an
Afternoon**

**An Amazing
Home Makeover
(ON A BUDGET!)**

**Secrets to Cozy
Cottage Style**

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Love our trio of forest critters? Bring their great outdoor charm to your front porch (see page 59). Photograph by Kate Mathis; styling by Sarah Cave.

Take a seat and enjoy the scenic fall view from the lawn of Joan Osofsky's country home



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THREE RECIPES FOR A BEAUTIFUL KITCHEN.

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*Martha Stewart Living™ Ox Hill Cabinets in Heavy Cream
Martha Stewart Living™ Quartz Countertop in Sierra by LG Hausys Viatera®*

More saving. More doing.



This sweet dog has no idea that I'll be dressing her in a bumblebee costume in just a few weeks!



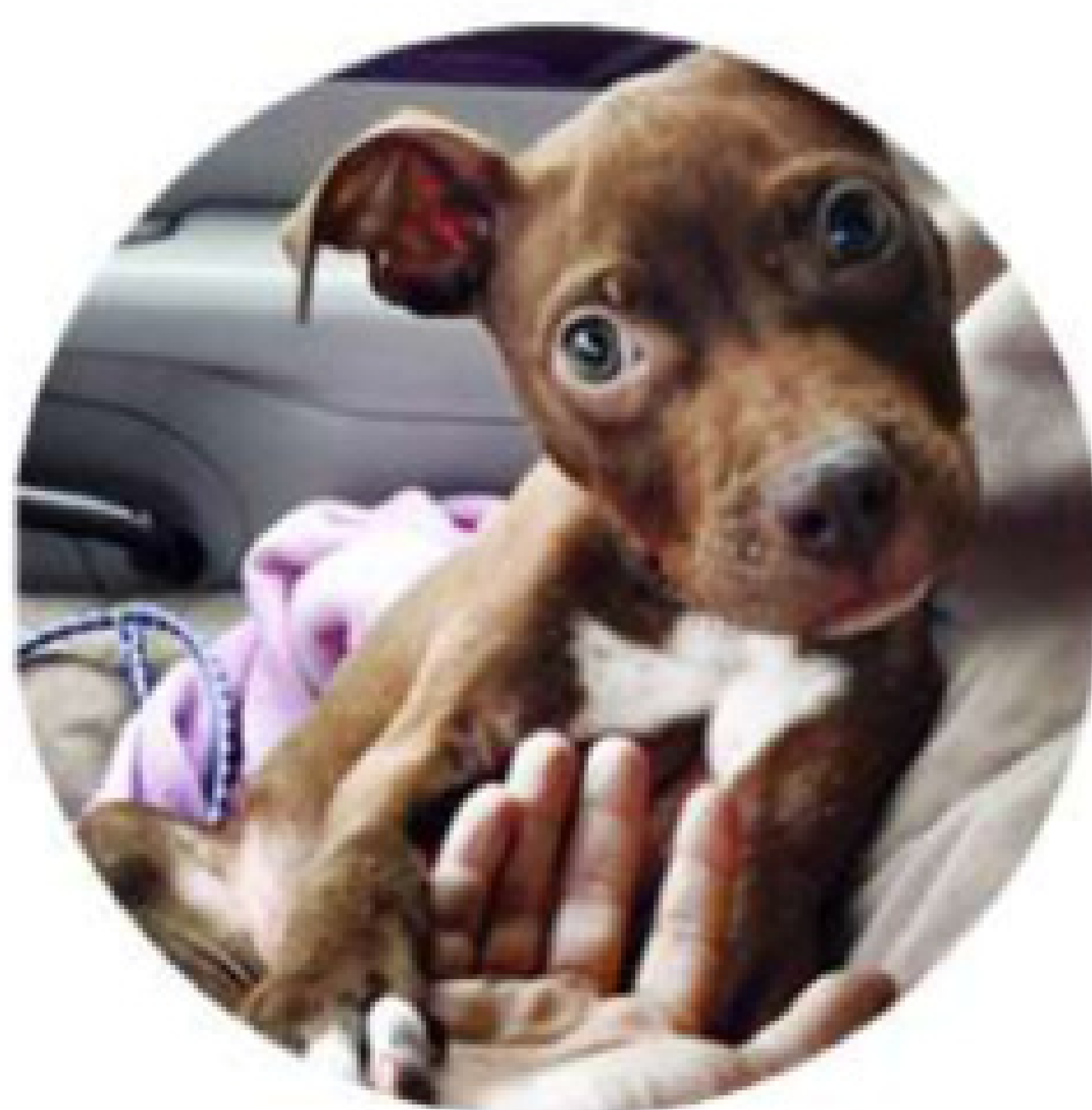
Lost and Found!

Reader Sarah Lauch rescues dogs from a Chicago shelter and documents their "joy rides" to freedom on Instagram.



SCOOBY

After four months in a cage, he stuck his head out the window to take in the moment.



WALNUT

This 3-month-old fella reached for Sarah's hand as if to say, "Thank you."



MIKEY

This little guy hopped on the console to sit right next to his rescuer.



POLLY POCKET

Her ear-to-ear smile pretty much says it all, don't ya think?

EDITOR'S NOTE

October is Adopt-a-Dog Month!

Three years ago, my husband and I entered the halls of the Greater Birmingham Humane Society in search of a sprightly little puppy. But after passing rows of adorable litters, I spotted Bailey, a large black Lab-chow mix whimpering alone in her kennel. At 8 months old, she appeared full grown and, according to a shelter volunteer, her size meant she was less likely to be adopted anytime soon.

This dog was *terrified* of strangers, including us. But after some bacon-infused bribery, we drove home with this sweet but very skeptical new member of the family. Weeks passed, and Bailey (still) refused to leave her crate. We were frustrated: After 10 dogless years in New York City, my husband and I were selfishly eager to fulfill all of the stereotypes of dog ownership—to throw Frisbees, to play fetch. This dog, it was clear, had never played fetch a day in her life. Still, we were up for the challenge. Three years—and countless treats—later, I'm thrilled to report that Bailey has happily retrieved her fair share of tennis balls.

If the adorable animals on page 43 aren't enough to encourage you to adopt a dog this month, just look to the furry faces right here. These snapshots were taken by reader Sarah Lauch, who rescues dogs from Chicago Animal Care & Control and documents their joy rides to a better fate—whether it's a new family or a foster home—on Instagram (@instasarah). If this issue—or Sarah's life-affirming series of pup portraits—inspires you to take home a lucky adoptee of your own, follow Sarah's lead and document your joy ride home from the shelter by using the hash tag #CLJoyRide.

Of course, October also means it's time for Halloween, so our editors have come up with a host of fun and easy ideas to celebrate in style. I'm particularly excited to try my hand at the "Boo" jar pumpkin on page 63 and the witch hat cupcakes on page 98. If you're a Halloween lover, you're in for a real treat—bacon-flavored or not.

Rachel

Rachel Hardage Barrett
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Fairgoer Katherine Todd shows off her finds.



Don't Forget the Country Living Fair!

We'll be in Atlanta, Georgia, October 24-26 for the last *Country Living Fair* of the year. Be sure to swing by our photo booth for a chance to show off your buys and be featured in a future issue. Visit countryliving.com/fair for more info.



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Dear Country Living...

What you had to say about our July/August issue. Plus: one fair-feathered friend!



Feedback

"Thank you for the great feature on the Hoedemaker siblings ['Summer Homestead,' page 80] in the July/August issue! I loved that it incorporated vintage brown furniture—not painted orange or pink—and how it looked like a *real* home. Keep up the great inspiration!"

—Mary Ellen Yontz,
Milan, OH



"'Alfresco on the Farm' [page 86] was one of my favorite food stories of the summer. It not only inspired me to have an al fresco dinner party, but to eat many, many dinners on our back porch."

—Ruth Campbell,
Mechanicsville, VA

READER PET OF THE MONTH

This month's pet pick was an easy choice! We're smitten with this darling photo of River Cone, a towheaded 2-year-old from Oakland City, Indiana, who flew the coop to join Harriet, his Brahma chicken, for some fowl play.



YOU KNOW YOU LIVE IN THE COUNTRY WHEN...

"You fall asleep to the sound of crickets and awake to the crow of a rooster."

—MARIA JORDAN, VIA PINTEREST

"The only thing 'online' is your laundry."

—LEAH MARIAN, VIA FACEBOOK

"You look up in the sky at night and it is a blanket of stars."

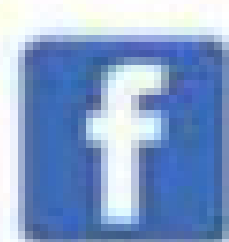
—SUSAN PHELPS CULBERTSON,
VIA FACEBOOK

"The local high school has a 'Drive Your Tractor to School' day."

—BETH OGDEN, VIA FACEBOOK

Share your best "You Know..." moments at countryliving@hearst.com

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!



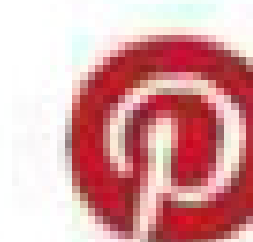
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what's country now

The best the countryside has to offer this month



Corny Party Favors

When it comes to Halloween handouts, there's perhaps nothing more iconic than candy corn. These sweet burlap gift bags (7" x 11.5") inspired by the tricolored confection make for charming (and reusable!) takeaways at fall get-togethers. (Sugar high not included.) \$19 for four; fourrdesigns.etsy.com

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Bargain of the Month

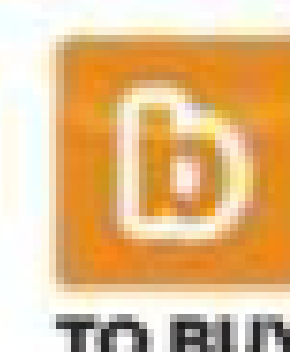
A knockout find for a mere \$17!



Pull a sly one on visitors with this foxy door knocker made of heavy lacquered cast brass. They'll never believe the luxe look set you back less than \$20. \$16.89; houseofantiquehardware.com

ALL IN THE DETAILS

Meet your new flatmates! Soft felted wool and tawny leather trim perfectly complement the embroidered, not-too-cutesy country motifs on these versatile loafers. Pair them with everything from jeans to shirtdresses this fall. *Zelda Flats*, \$109; talbots.com



TRENDLET

Black & Brass

This striking duo is having quite a dramatic moment.



This metallic-handled cup is sure to wake up your morning routine.

Threshold Mug, \$4.99; target.com



Standard brass hardware gets a sleek upgrade with an ebony-hued porcelain knob.

Rosette Set, \$96; emtek.com for stores



Hunt for perfect wall decor no more, thanks to this resin specimen.

Alberta Moose Head, 23"W x 20"H x 8"D, \$99.97; wallcharmners.etsy.com



This industrial fixture is hand-finished in Portland, Oregon.

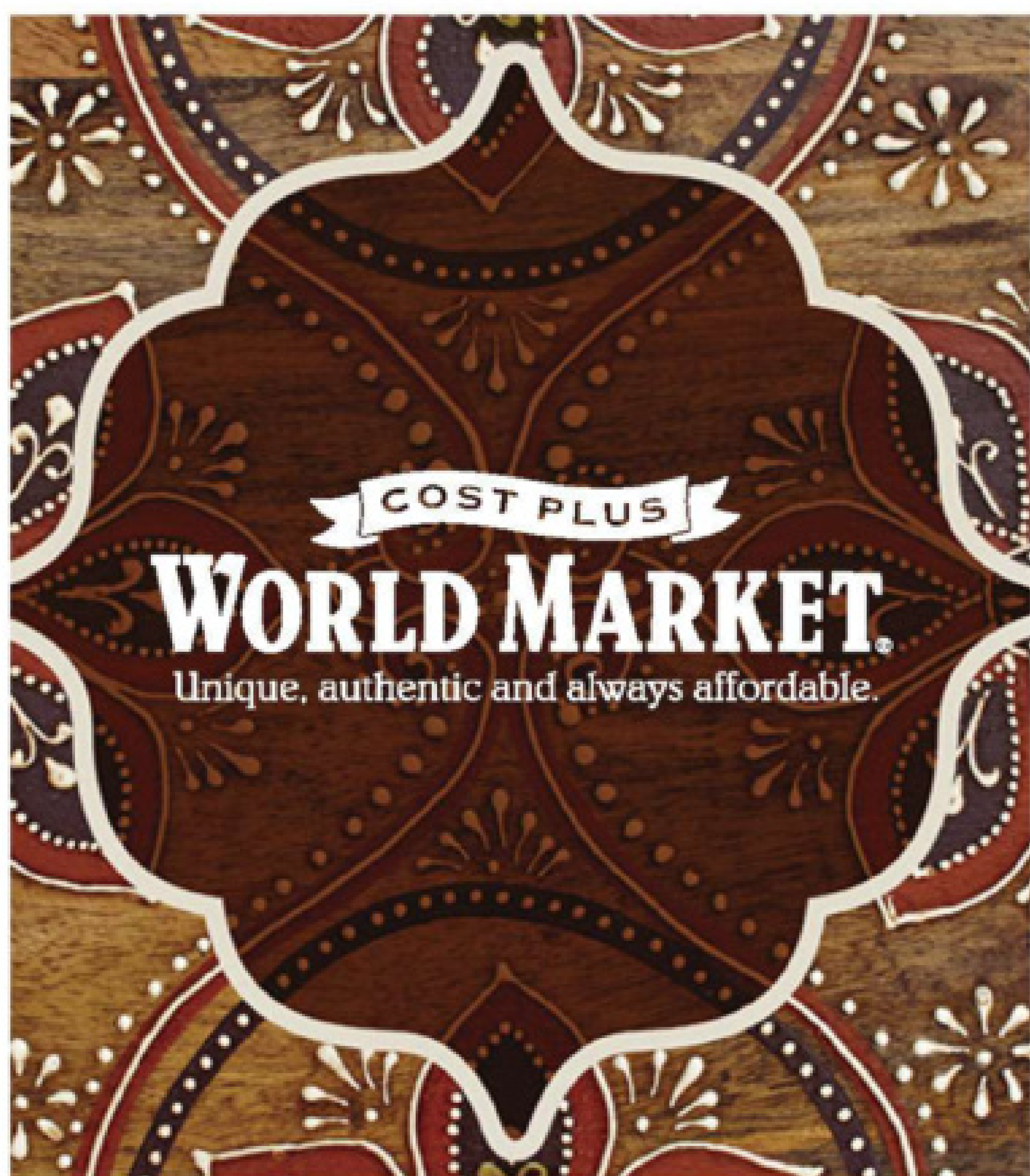
Satellite Sconce, \$129, **Factory Shade No. 3**, \$59; schoolhouseelectric.com



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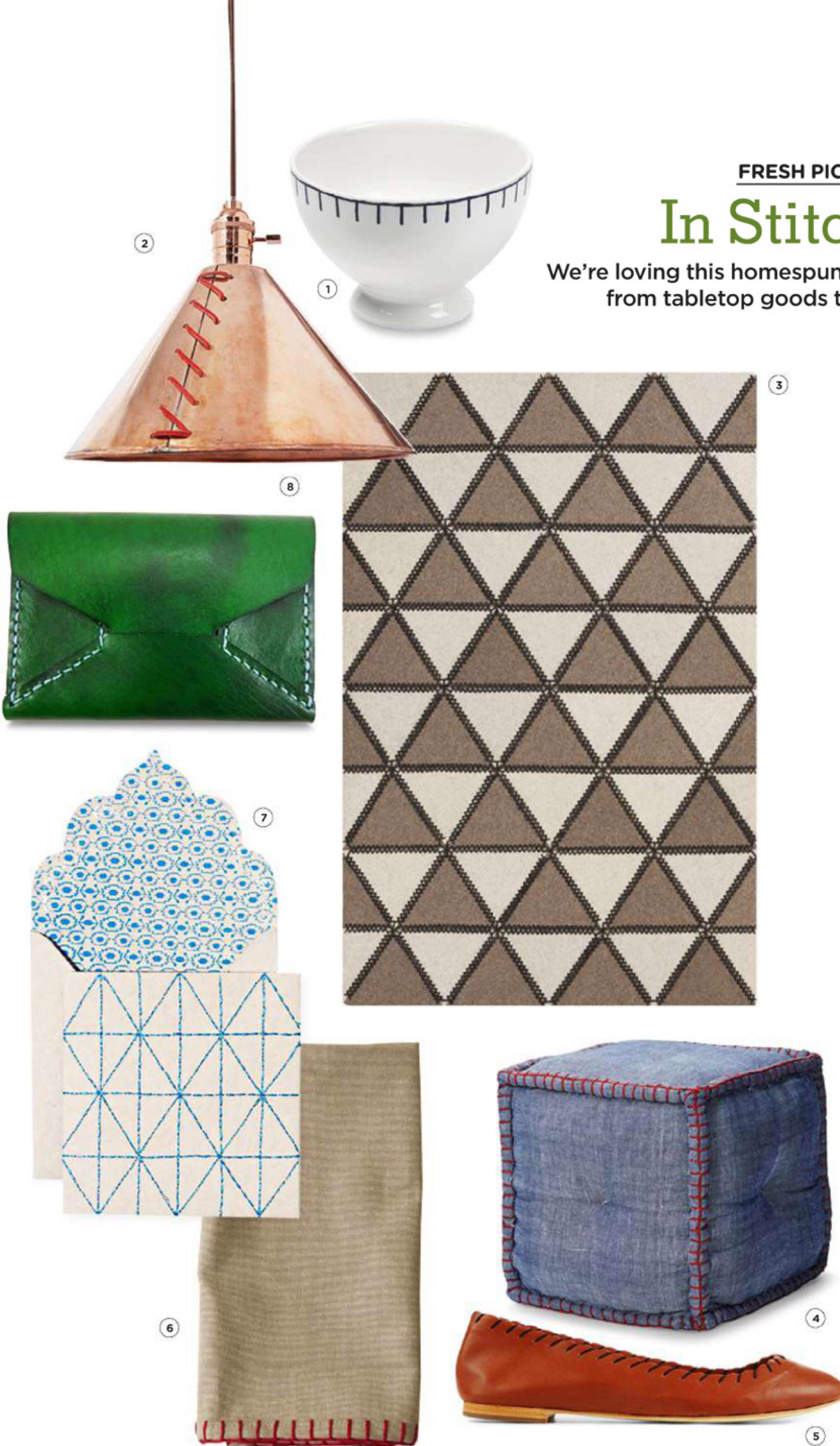
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FRESH PICKS

In Stitches

We're loving this homespun detail on everything from tabletop goods to fashion finds.



① **CEREAL BOWL**
The painted border on this earthenware piece has the same visual effect as the real deal. \$11; heritagelace.com

② **PENDANT LIGHT**
Red suede cording gives this copper pendant an unexpected flash of color. \$380; michelevarian.com

③ **AREA RUG**
A reversible design gives this felted-wool find more bang for the buck. \$599 for 5' x 8'; surya.com for stores

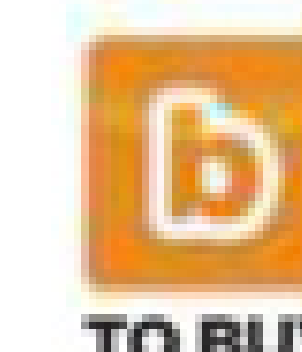
④ **SQUARE POUF**
Made of durable denim, this comfy footstool doubles as extra seating in a pinch. \$88; serenaandlily.com

⑤ **BALLET FLATS**
Soft cognac-hued leather pairs well with the navy stitched trim. \$250; loefflerrandall.com

⑥ **DINNER NAPKINS**
Plain-Jane linen napkins get a bright upgrade with a whipstitched red border. \$20 for 4; westelm.com

⑦ **NOTECARDS**
These frame-worthy embroidered cotton-paper cards are almost too pretty to write on. \$40 for 6; johnrobshaw.com

⑧ **ENVELOPE WALLET**
Choose from 15 thread and 8 leather colors on this Pennsylvania-made leather good. \$48; whipstitchwallets.etsy.com



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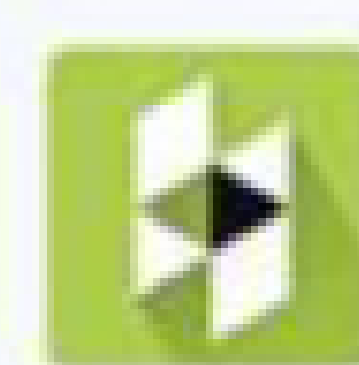
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Making a Country Living

Ohio-based design duo Phillip and Jackie Wachter can thank their grandmothers for inspiring a *tote*-ally new career.



These straps are three times stronger than most handles, due to a saddle-stitching technique done by hand.

The bag body is sewn together using sewing machines from Amish country.

Who: Phillip and Jackie Wachter (and their Jack Russell terrier, D'wayne)

What: Handcrafted leather bags from their leather goods company, Fount

Where: Cleveland, Ohio

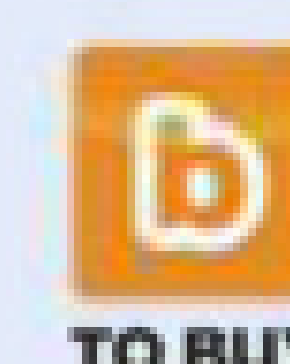
LOVELY START

"After our first date on Halloween in 2012 (dressed as a cowboy and Smurfette!) we learned that our mutual interests went beyond a love of costumes and included collecting vintage leather products from the likes of Frye and Coach. Two years and one wedding later, we traded our former jobs as a teacher [Jackie] and video producer [Phillip] to pursue Fount full-time in the spring of 2014. It takes six hours to create a single bag."

STURDY FOUNDATION

"We both sew—a skill learned from our grandmothers—and assemble the bags one at a time using cow and bison hides hand-selected from a vendor in Italy."

Find Fount totes (including the Bellfield; \$299) and their other leather goods (wallets, wristlets, and key chains from \$22) at The Cleveland Flea and at fountleather.com.

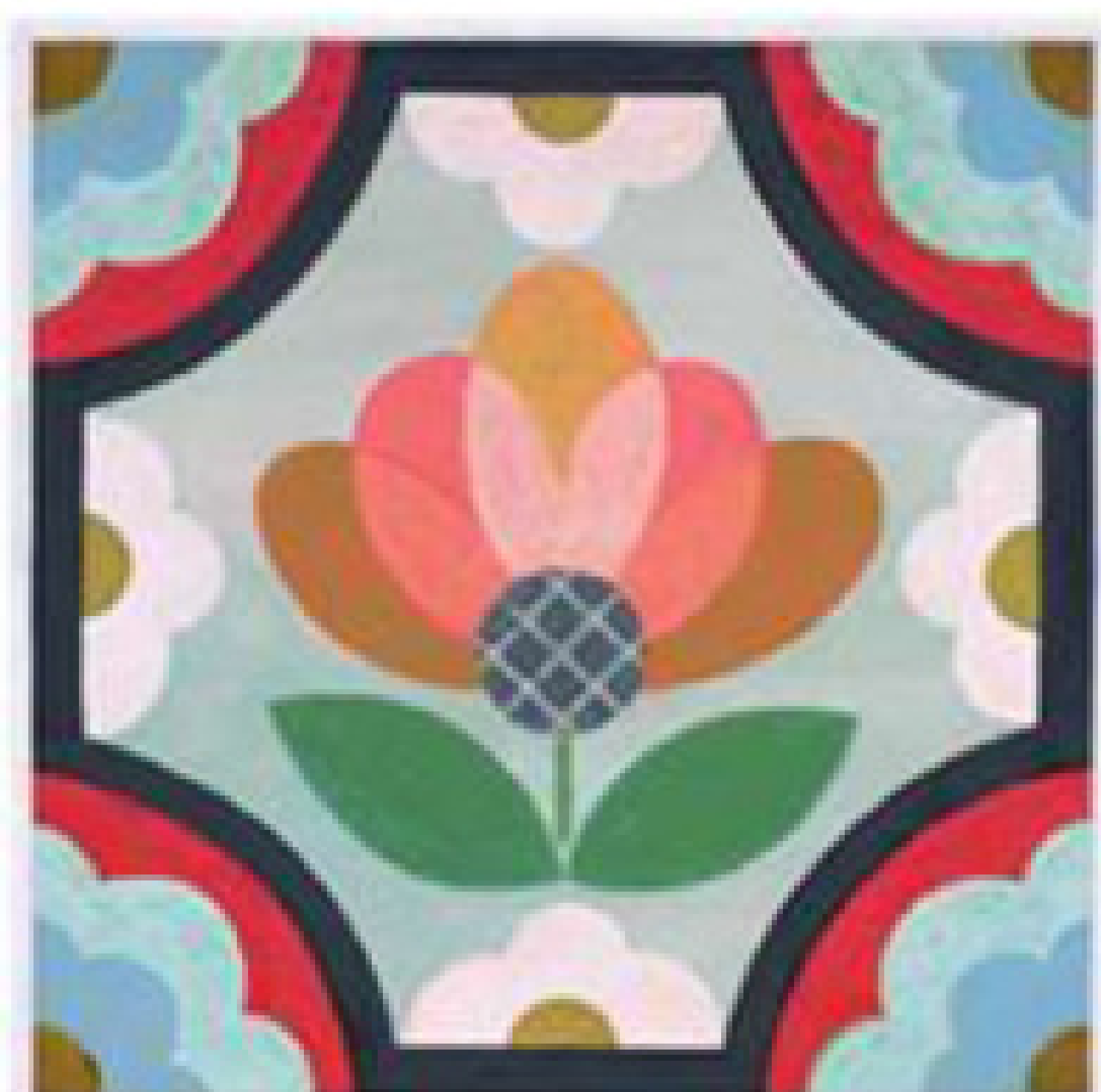




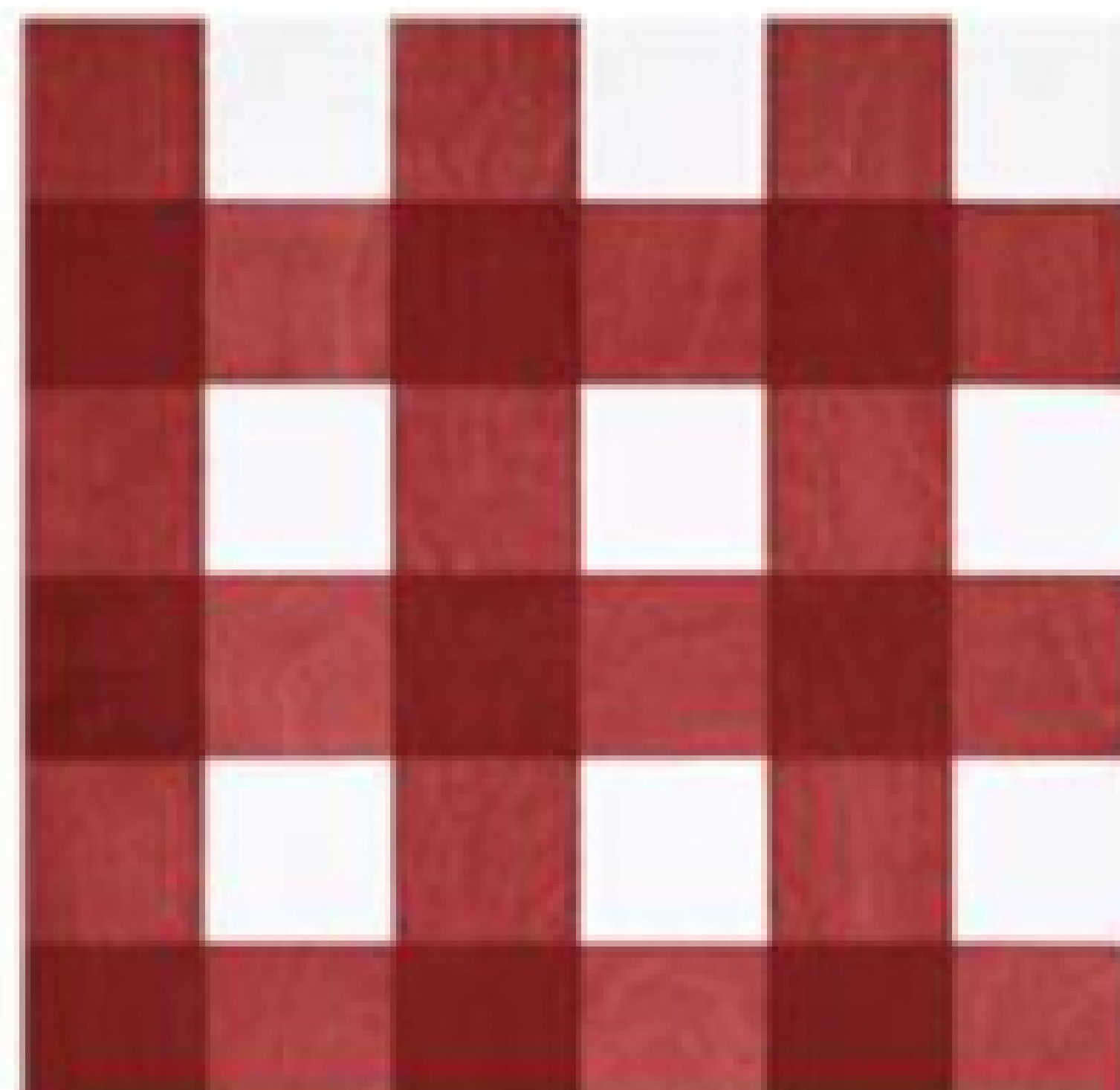
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Blossom



Gingham



Hollywood

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My Kind of Country

MEET: Darby Stanchfield, who plays fast-talking, quick-thinking Abby Whelan on the hit television series *Scandal*, which returns to ABC on September 25
COUNTRY CRED: Hails from Kodiak, Alaska, where her father was a commercial fisherman; recharges by escaping to the Santa Monica Mountains



1



2



9



3



8



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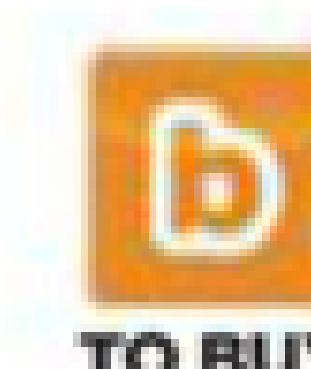


7



5

"This red Le Creuset pot is on my wish list!"



BACKYARD MUST-HAVES:

"Organic, cold-pressed Suja Juice in hand and star jasmine in bloom."

Suja Juice (1), \$8.99 each; sujuice.com. **Star Jasmine** (7), \$12.98; brighterblooms.com

BEST DIY: "Re-tiling the bathroom of a 1917 Craftsman home. I taught myself!"

Herringbone Mosaic Tile (2), \$28.60/square foot; annsacks.com

FAMILY TRADITION: "Baking cherry pie using my grandmother's recipe and Oregon Fruit's red tart cherries."

Red Tart Cherries (3), \$5; oregonfruit.com

FAVORITE FALL DISH: "I fill a Dutch oven with lentils, greens, and spices and let it simmer for hours."

5-Quart Pot (4), \$275; lecreuset.com

BEAUTY HOME REMEDY: "I put organic coconut oil in my hair, French braid it, and let it soak up the nutrients."

Coconut Oil (5), \$5.99; traderjoes.com

WEEKEND RITUAL: "Throwing on Levi's and a T-shirt and riding with my husband in his Chevy Cheyenne pickup."

501 Original (6), \$88; levi.com; **Cotton V** (8), \$15; everlane.com

PORCH SWING OR ROCKING CHAIR?: "I love the simple design of the rocker on my kitchen porch."

Presidential Rocker (9), \$299; homedepot.com



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THE COLLECTOR'S GUIDE Vintage Phones

From wooden wall
mounts to colorful
corded numbers,
these antique
finds will have you
at hello.



WALL MOUNT

These boxy, wooden wonders were the earliest mass-produced phones.

Western Electric 317

Shortly after Alexander Graham Bell's 1876 invention of the telephone, wall mounts became the norm. They offered two options for placing a call: speaking with the operator or using the crank handle to ring the party line—a single line shared by all the homes in a town. You would dial a series of short and long cranks, which, in turn, resulted in a Morse code-like series of short and long rings. All phones rang at the same time, but everyone was assigned a unique ring. If it wasn't your ring, you just didn't pick up the receiver (though some busybodies may have pleaded confusion). This 1919 specimen by phone manufacturer Western Electric was one of the most common wall mounts. Today, it rings in at \$200.

CANDLESTICK

Slender and elegant, this scaled-down style debuted in 1890.

1. Brass Western Electric

With candlesticks, manufacturers took a small step toward portability by separating the ringer and wiring from the handset. Brass was the material of choice until it was needed for bullets during WWI. This 1909 beauty fetches \$375.

2. Candlestick Pay Phone

This 1908 setup goes for \$750 and is an early example of the now antiquated pay phone. A series of dings (one for a nickel, two for a dime, and a long one for a quarter) notified an operator when payment was deposited.

3. Kellogg Model 44

Worth \$600, this 1925 phone has the then-innovative rotary dial for placing calls without an operator.





SINGLE HANDSET

Western Electric's models were *the* American standard for nearly 50 years.

1. Western Electric 102

The Bell company once held a monopoly on the country's phone lines and required customers to rent phones made by Western Electric. The 102, which debuted in 1928, set the standard for all single handset styles to come and today commands \$350.

2. Western Electric 202

With superior reception to its predecessor, the 202 was produced from 1930 to 1937 and gets an estimate of \$300.

3. Western Electric 302

Created by noted designer Henry Dreyfuss in 1937, the 302 remained in production until 1952. At the time, the phone company charged a premium for any models other than basic black; few families splurged for this cherry red number, which will now set you back \$400.

4. Western Electric 500

The 1950s introduction of the 500 made new colors, like this baby blue and more than a dozen other shades, available for a small one-time charge. Today, the 500 costs \$150.



DECORATOR

These sleek designs were stylish (and pricey!) alternatives to Western Electric's status quo.

1. Automatic Electric AE50

Molded out of Bakelite, an early chip-prone plastic, this 1940s wall mount (the rotary dial is the top of the phone) was nicknamed "the jukebox" for its arched shape. In hard-to-find perfect condition, it fetches a cool \$1,000.

2. Automatic Electric AE2

Also made of Bakelite, this blocky 1920s desktop phone, worth \$380, features brass detailing on the handset and rotary dial.

PUSH BUTTON

In 1963, manufacturers dialed back on rotary models and pushed these streamlined introductions.

1. Princess Phone

Marketed as an inexpensive second extension, the Princess Phone became particularly popular with teenagers. In pink, it fetches close to \$200. Less desirable colors go for closer to \$150.

2. Genie Phone

The groovy curves on American Telecommunications Corporation's Genie phone proved so popular it remained in production through the 1980s. More readily available than other types, you can own one for a mere \$80.



CUSTOM COLORS

Today, there's a new collectors' market for retro phones painted vibrant (but not original) shades.

1. Stromberg Carlson 1234

Refinished with a high-gloss paint job, this 1940s die-cast metal model costs \$300.

2. Western Electric 302

Prices for this aqua stunner, the most popular second-market shade, start at \$330.

3. Kellogg Masterphone

This 1940s Bakelite phone with a modern yellow update will set you back \$270.

PHONE RESOURCES

PHONE CO. Offering a huge inventory from every era, this company also refurbishes vintage phones; phonecoinc.com

OLD PHONE WORKS Specializes in second-market paint jobs; oldphoneworks.com

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design spotlight



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recipe spotlight



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For more recipe ideas,
visit IncredibleEgg.org.



shopping spotlight

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What Is It? What Is It Worth?

Our antiques specialists appraise your finds and collectibles.

The missing "S" indicates this antique machine likely belonged to a professional seamstress!



“I purchased this sewing machine on Etsy. It still runs and came with a travel case, to boot. The serial is G3008402. Can you tell me what year it was made?”

—K.C., AINSWORTH, WI

WHAT IT IS:

SINGER 66 SEWING MACHINE

That serial number reveals your machine was made in 1913 in Elizabeth, New Jersey. This Singer 66 model was one of 50,000 such machines produced from 1910 to 1920. While the item is not rare, Mike Wolfe of *American Pickers* (see our Collecting Panel, page 29) notes it is desired by collectors for its ornate “Red-Eye” decal pattern. If the machine were in mint condition, it would be valued at nearly \$1,000. “The noticeable wear on the logo significantly reduces the price,” explains appraiser Helaine Fendelman. “It also suggests it was used by a professional machinist who would have wrapped cloth around the arm to stash pins.”

WHAT IT'S WORTH: **\$100**

MORE ANTIQUE SEWING FINDS!

The common thread: They all hail from the Victorian era.



1. FLORAL TAPE MEASURE

Designed to look like a glass brooch, this item's cloth tape is still intact with legible numbers.

WHAT IT'S WORTH: \$25

2. VELVET SEWING KIT

This complete set, made by British company Sheffield, would likely have belonged to a well-to-do housewife.

WHAT IT'S WORTH: \$100

3. INSTRUCTIONAL BOOK

Though a bit worn, this 1910 child's sewing manual retains value due to its sweet collection-worthy cover.

WHAT IT'S WORTH: \$60

4. WOODEN MACHINE BOBBINS

From a French factory that specialized in drapery tassels, these large-size bobbins (11 to 13 inches) make for striking tchotchkes.

WHAT IT'S WORTH: \$150 for three

"I've had this camera since I was in high school. Is it a collectible today?"

R.H., TWISP, WA

WHAT IT IS:

SABRE 620 CAMERA

This plastic camera was produced in the USA from 1956 to 1972 by Shaw-Harrison Corporation. Named the Sabre 620 for its use of 620 millimeter film, it was bright, cute, and incredibly easy to use. "Box models like this one and Kodak's Brownie Hawkeye introduced millions of amateurs to photography," explains Mike Wolfe. Today this simple camera is more than just a collectible to display on a shelf; it's a popular choice for photography buffs who favor the vintage-quality 2¼" x 2¼" pictures it produces. Yes, believe it or not, 620 film remains in limited production and a few processing houses are still up and running.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$90



"My grandmother worked as a nurse and received this as a gift from a patient. The year 1888 is stitched into the design. Can you tell more about its unique style?"

R.W., LAGRANGE, GA

WHAT IT IS:

CRAZY QUILT

After the Philadelphia Expo of 1876, American women became fascinated with asymmetrical Japanese art, explains Marsha Dixey of Heritage Auctions. They began duplicating the look in quilts, using unexpected fabrics such as brocade, velvet, and silk and incorporating embroidery techniques. The short-lived style (it fizzled by 1910) earned the name "Crazy Quilts." "This example has some striking details from the quilter, like the bird, flowers, and the Good Luck motto," notes Marsha. "It appears the back has been replaced with a more modern fabric and the edges resewn. Because this was done well, it minimally affects the value."

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$300

"I bought this weather vane at an antiques auction last year. I was told it looks similar to a late-19th-century design by Currier & Ives. Is it the real deal?"

M.G., MARIANNA, FL

WHAT IT IS:

SULKY WEATHER VANE

This item was not produced by Currier & Ives, but, in fact, no weather vanes ever were. The company instead created colorful lithographs that were copied by weather vane makers. This particular one depicts a horse pulling a sulky (a lightweight cart used for racing), which was a motif favored both by Currier & Ives and, in turn, weather vane producers. Unfortunately, Helaine Fendelman notes, this specimen is a recent reproduction. "Look closely and you'll notice the patina shows no remnants of gilding or verdigris and no sign of aging," she says. Were this a 19th-century original, the piece would be valued at a whopping \$15,000. Likely made in the 1980s, the attractive weather vane instead garners a respectable, but much lower, price.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$150



"This basket has been in my family for generations. We use it to store blankets. Is it worth putting on display?"

V.R., ROSELAND, LA

WHAT IT IS:

WHITE OAK BASKET

This handsome basket is indeed worthy of display (though the blanket storage seems to have kept it in nearly pristine condition, so you might want to consider staying the course). "Woven from white oak, a common basket weaving material in the southern Appalachians, it was likely made in the late 19th century but could very well have been created as early as 1840," says Marsha Bemko of *Antiques Roadshow*, who consulted with show appraiser Stephen Fletcher. Like many other utilitarian Americana objects, sturdy examples such as this one are currently in high demand as home decor accessories.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$300

"I stumbled upon this game board at an auction and loved its bright colors. Does it have any value?"

B.F., DECATUR, AL

WHAT IT IS:

PRIMITIVE CHECKERBOARD

Early game boards were often made of repurposed wood, which appears to be the case with yours. "You can see nail holes and even a few clenched nails still embedded in the wood," says Marsha Bemko, who consulted with *Antiques Roadshow* appraiser James Supp on the value of this piece. "It appears to be made from the side of an early 20th-century packing crate." This telling detail helps date the board to that era, when checkers was a particularly popular game thanks to its easy-to-make boards and tokens.

WHAT IT'S WORTH:

\$200



MEET OUR COLLECTING PANEL

MARSHA BEMKO, ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

Executive producer for the Emmy Award-nominated TV program

MARSHA DIXEY, HERITAGE AUCTIONS

Manager of the world's largest online auction house; expert in Americana collectibles

HELAINE FENDELMAN

Member of the Appraisers Association of America; expert in U.S. art and furniture

MIKE WOLFE, AMERICAN PICKERS

TV show host; owner of Antique Archaeology in Nashville, TN, and LeClaire, IA

The Collecting Life

WITH MARY RANDOLPH CARTER

In her new column, author and unapologetic junker Mary Randolph Carter celebrates the thrill of the hunt.

Psst: You can call her "Carter"!

MAYBE IT STARTED when I was a little girl, constantly rearranging the furniture in my dollhouse, then rummaging through my mother's sewing basket and down the aisles of the neighborhood Five & Ten looking for just the right thing that would bring a glint of happy magic to my family of dolls. Is that where this collector's life began? Is that where my desire to hunt for things that bring color and warmth and happiness into my life really started? Each of us has a story about why we collect. And whether that inclination to acquire started at 6 or 26, it has probably been a flicker in our hearts since the day we were born.

Starting now, I begin my journey with all of you who live the collector's life. For now that the weather has turned crisp like the crunchiest McIntosh, this is the ultimate season for The Hunt—for staying on the lookout for those handwritten signs (love notes to junkers!) tacked up everywhere—"Tag Sale Up Ahead!" or "Turn Around: You Just Missed the Ultimate Yard Sale!" Oh, how these messages make my heart beat so rapidly, even when I've already set my internal GPS to an antiques show 10 miles away.

But putting on the brakes to take such a detour is not always the safest

impulse when you're on the road with unsuspecting drivers right behind you.

So while I'm not a fan of bumper stickers—those vehicular billboards showcasing where we've vacationed, our alma mater, our children's schools, or something totally silly like "I Was an Honor Student, What Happened?"—I had one custom-made out of a real concern for the poor driver who might be following my blue pickup as I sud-



"Laugh if you like, but this bumper sticker has saved me from many a fender bender!"

denly come upon one of those roadside yard sales and impulsively put my foot on the brake. The message is simple: **I BRAKE FOR JUNK.**

Now, laugh if you like, but I know from experience that those four words printed out in bold letters have saved me more than once from a



potential fender bender and the wrath of those who have little sympathy for people like me who can't resist a curb filled with the abandoned goods of someone else's life. If you're equally prone to sudden braking and want to order your own sticky safeguard, e-mail me at carter@countryliving.com. And follow along with me from month to month as I track down finds from flea markets, share my secret junking sources, and celebrate that inner passion that fills our lives with those special collections that make our homes beautifully one-of-a-kind. (Just don't follow too closely!)

MARY RANDOLPH CARTER is a creative director at Ralph Lauren and the author of eight books, including her latest, *Never Stop To Think... Do I Have a Place for This?*

SCENES FROM THE JUNKING TRAIL

Here's a peek into Carter's stylish and wonderful (not to mention crowded!) world of stuff.



"My 1996 pickup has logged hundreds of miles in the name of junking."



"Was it this tiny dollhouse furniture that inspired a lifetime love for the big stuff?"

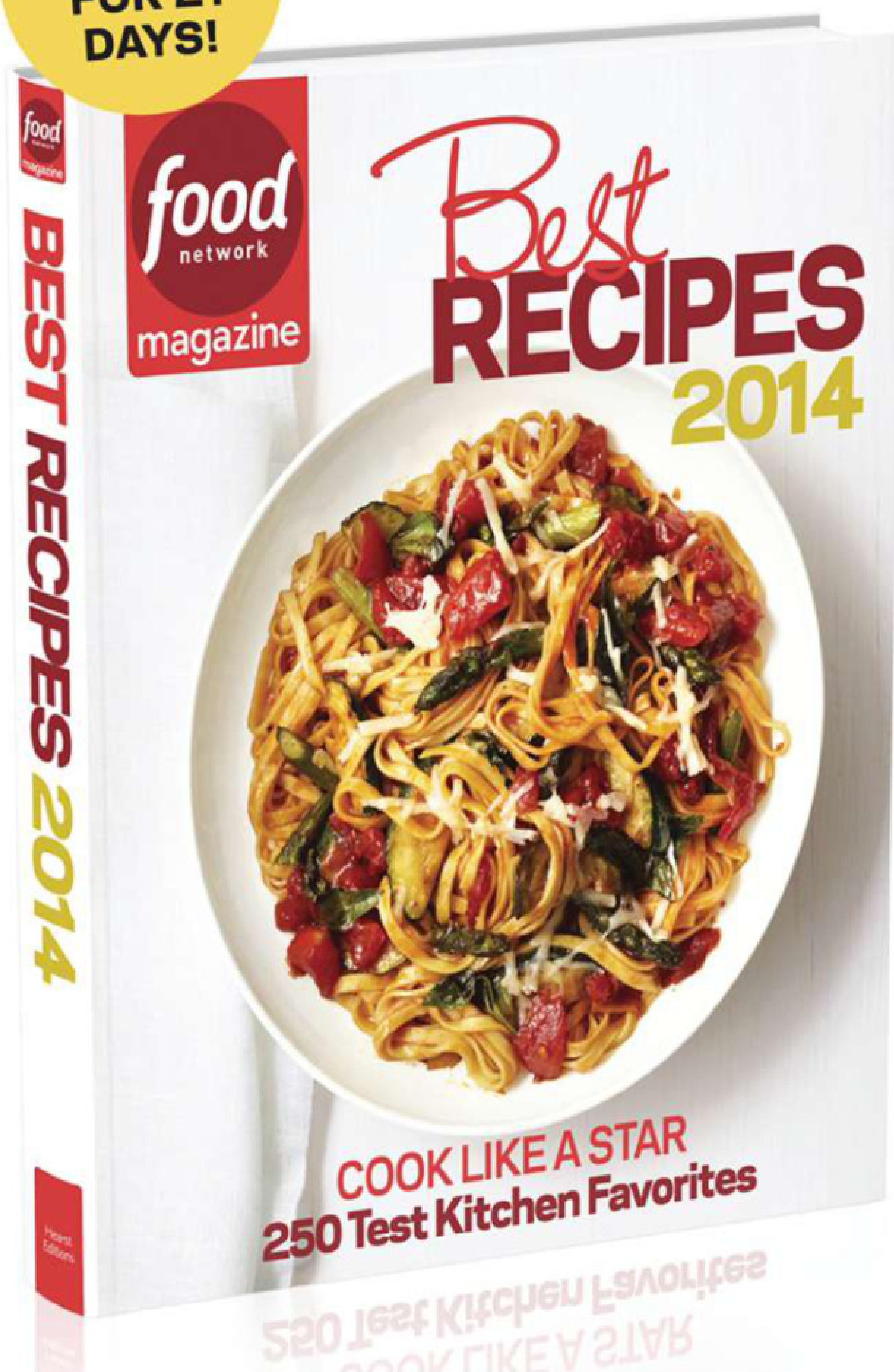


"This carriage house at my farm in Upstate New York is home to my junking atelier."

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idea notebook

Easy, affordable projects to celebrate Halloween in style

Haunt Your Whole House!

We're all for pumpkins on the front stoop (see page 57), but why stop there? Bring the witching hour to every nook and cranny of your home with these festive crafts.

OWL WREATH

FOR THE WREATH BASE: Wrap burlap ribbon (\$8; joann.com) around a 16" Styrofoam form. **FOR THE EYES:** Use utility scissors to cut a 5" circle from a sisal doormat (\$5; ikea.com). Trim a 2" strip from the edge of a raffia table skirt (\$7; partycity.com) and hot-glue along the outer edge. Next, hot-glue the outer ring of a 4½"-inch Mason jar lid inside the raffia, securing it to the sisal circle. Hot-glue a metal bottle cap at the center of the ring and encircle with dried pumpkin seeds. Hot-glue a red wood bead inside bottle cap. Repeat for second eye. **FOR THE WINGS:** Cut two 8"H x 5"W teardrop-shaped pieces from the doormat. **FOR THE BEAK:** Cut a 3" triangle from the mat; cover with dried pumpkin seeds. **TO ASSEMBLE:** Attach the beak, then the eyes and wings, with hot-glue.



CAT FACE GARLAND

STEP 1 Download our cat face template from countryliving.com/catface.

STEP 2 Using a white pencil, trace the template onto black card stock and cut out desired number of faces.

STEP 3 Fringe the sides of the cat's face and the top of its head with scissors. (Fringing scissors work best: \$9.95; walmart.com).

STEP 4 For each cat, cut three pieces of black waxed twine, about 4" long. Knot them together in the center of the twine, and glue to the cat's face as whiskers.

STEP 5 Toward the horizontal center of the cat's face, use a standard single-hole punch to create holes for eyes about 2½" apart.

STEP 6 Hang string lights and position cat faces on 2 lightbulbs, one in each eye hole.

WITCH HAT BOTTLE TOPPERS

STEP 1 Cut a 2½" circle from black card stock. Glue paper circle between two pieces of black burlap. Trim burlap in shape of circle.

STEP 2 Roll another piece of burlap into a 3"H cone shape and hot-glue edge to secure. Hot-glue cone to circle, then glue a piece of white twine around the base of the cone. Glue hat to bottle cork. Repeat to make additional hats.

BROOMSTICK DRINK STIRRERS

STEP 1 Cut eight 7" strips of raffia. Bend all eight pieces in half. Lay four folded strands vertically, then lay the other four horizontally, forming a plus sign. Bring the ends of the vertical four together around the horizontal four. Then bring the remaining ends together and secure the entire bundle with black twine ½" from the bottom. Snip folded ends to form broom shape.

STEP 2 Push a wooden skewer into the bristles until end is hidden. Spread bristles apart so you can see where skewer and raffia meet. Apply glue at that spot to secure. Repeat to make additional stirrers.



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CROCHET DOILY SPIDERWEBS

STEP 1 Loosen screw on embroidery hoop and insert toothpicks between inner and outer hoop, evenly spaced around the circle.

STEP 2 Press in the picks until less than an inch is sticking out the front. Break off points in the back.

STEP 3 Spray-paint the hoops and toothpicks black. Let dry.

STEP 4 Stretch doily over toothpicks until taut. Glue a spider to the "web" or secure a dangling spider to the frame with string.



BOOK BATS

Find center of a 300- to 500-page book. Fold 50 pages on each side toward center to create body. Continue folding 50-page sections inward for wings. (Use hot-glue to secure.) Spray-paint black. Insert two long nails in wall, spaced the width of the "wingspan." Place outer folds over nails to display.



LEAF GHOST RUNNER

Gather an assortment of leaves. (For a ghost-like silhouette, we particularly love ivy leaves; see bottom center.) Paint leaves with white acrylic paint; apply two to three coats and let dry. Draw eyes on ghosts with black marker. Use double-sided tape to affix leaf ghosts onto sheer runner.



JACK-O'-LANTERN CANDLESTICKS

Mix 2 tablespoons Mod Podge with 3 teaspoons water and 10 drops orange food coloring. Swish mixture inside Martinelli's brand apple juice bottles (we used two small, one large); pour out excess and dry. Heat in oven for 45 minutes at 225°F until bottles are transparent. Wrap bottle necks with twine. Use permanent marker to draw faces.



SNAKE CURTAIN TIEBACKS

Braid three pieces of black rope and secure one end with black tape for a tail. Secure 16-gauge steel wire to the back with tape. Paint a wooden spoon black; cut off all but 1" of handle and tape to non-tail end of rope. Use a white paint pen to draw eyes, then add pupils with a black pen. Glue a 2" strip of red ribbon to underside of spoon. Cut triangle in end of ribbon.

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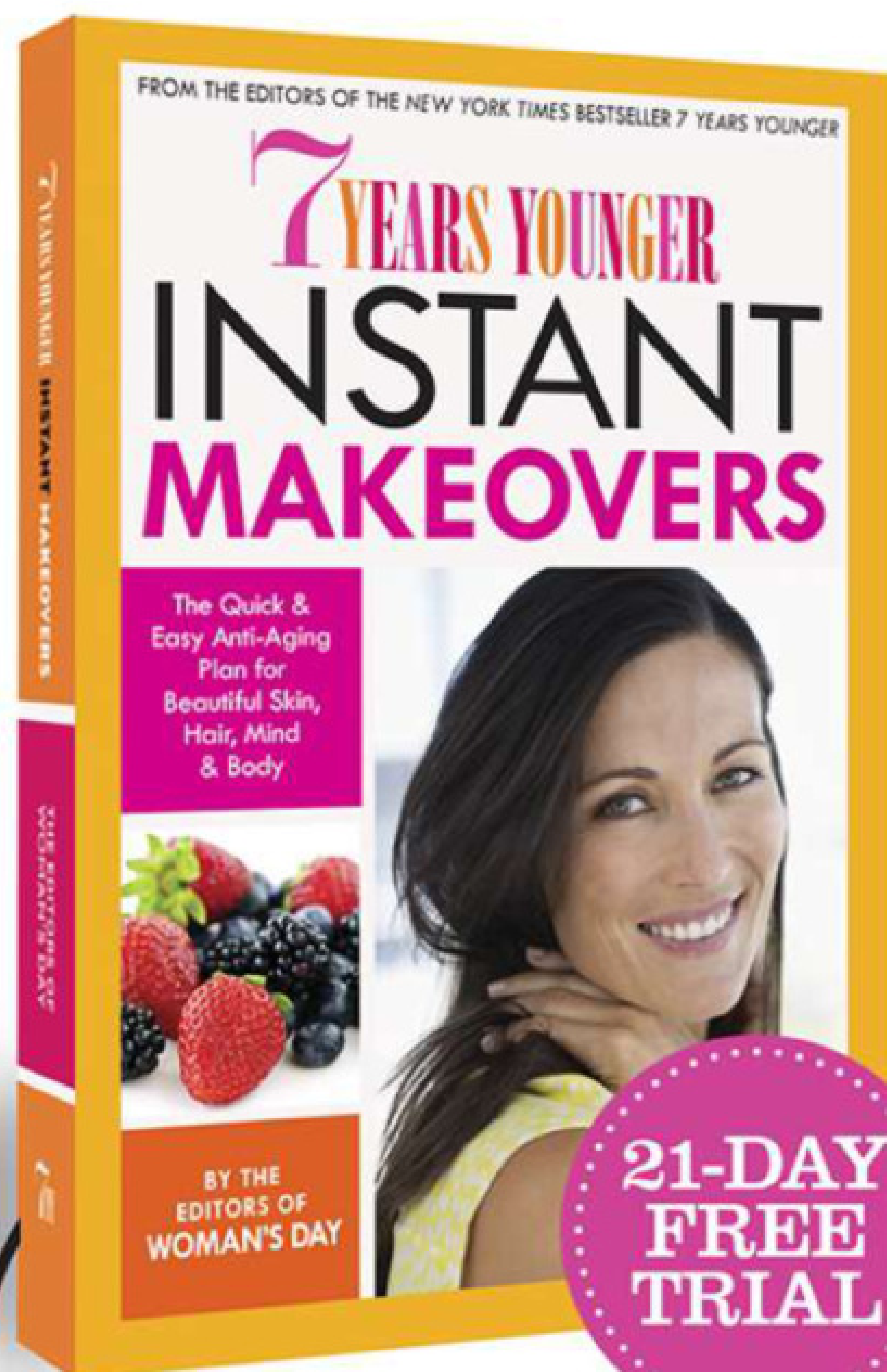
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home sweet home

Dreamy bedroom inspiration, doggone good decorating ideas, and more

GREAT FIND!

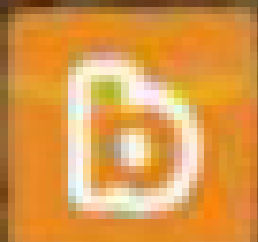
This headboard (starting at \$549; [homeemporium.etsy.com](https://www.homeemporium.etsy.com)) can be custom-made in three weeks.

Olive
Farrow
& Ball

BED & BREAKFAST

Pattern Play

Create a cozy getaway at home! This inviting room offers traditional country charm with a few fresh updates (oversize gingham!). And, yes, breakfast *is* included.



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BLIPPAR APP
to buy products
from this section.

EASY BEDROOM UPGRADES

Could your space use a wake-up call? Try a mix of pretty prints, then add a few subtle (and affordable!) details for a tailored vibe that doesn't skimp on comfort.



① **MIX PATTERNS LIKE A PRO.** For a fresh, not fussy, approach, stick to one color scheme (ours was inspired by the lavender in the headboard) and balance large-scale prints (like the floral and check) with small ones (like the plaid and block print). For a similar look, try the **Lilac Buffalo Check Throw Pillow**, \$29.95; zazzle.com.



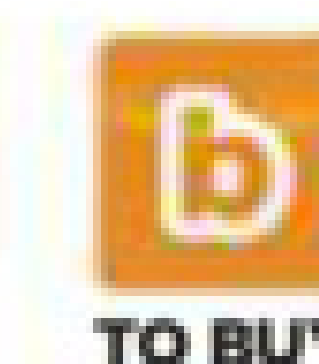
② **SPRUCE UP BASIC SHADES WITH TRIM.**

Rest assured: This easy DIY takes less than 20 minutes. Measure the shade's length when straight, and cut two pieces of trim accordingly. Starting 2 inches in from the edges, adhere trim with a hot-glue gun. **Shades:** Levolor, from \$36; lowes.com. **Trim:** \$12/yard; calicocorners.com.



③ **ADD UNEXPECTED POPS OF COLOR.**

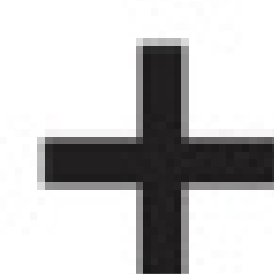
Get more mileage out of your favorite fabric by lining nightstand drawers with paper photocopies of the pattern. (Bonus: You can shrink or enlarge it as you see fit.) Measure drawers and cut shapes, then secure with double-sided tape.



DON'T FORGET BREAKFAST!

Sweeten up your morning with these artisanal finds.

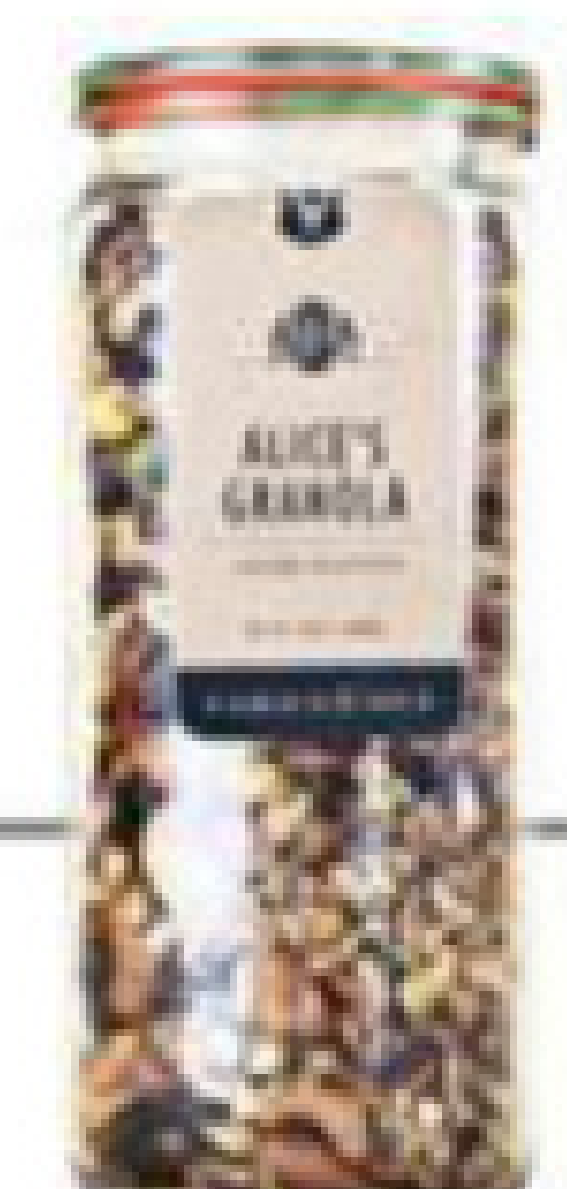
Start with...
A braided water hyacinth tray. It's as sturdy as it is pretty. **Onslow Tray**, \$39.95; crateandbarrel.com



These dishwasher-safe porcelain dishes come in five other colors. **Latte Bowls** in Freesia, \$20 for 4; anthropologie.com



Drizzle this made-in-Pennsylvania nectar over cereal or tea. **Rustic Honey Jar**, \$14.99 for 12.8 oz.; bumbleberryfarms.com



Cherries and nuts make for a sweet, salty mix in a reusable jar. **Alice's Granola**, \$19.95 for 19 oz.; formaggiokitchen.com

HONEY: DAVID HILLEGAS.

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Ethan | at age 4
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Fetching Style, Four Ways

Dogs are an important part of our homes, so why overlook them when it comes to decorating? In celebration of **Adopt-a-Dog Month**, we challenged our editors to design four cozy sitting nooks each inspired by iconic country pooches. Turn the page for pet-friendly, pup-inspired spaces that will make you want to sit *and* stay.



Adopt a Dog!

We're shedding light on the four million dogs nationwide—purebreds *and* mixed breeds—who need a second chance. Find one near you at aspca.com/adopt.



STYLING BY PAGE MULLINS AND JAMI SUPSIC.

GRAPHIC & MODERN

THE DOG: Sparkles, a 5-year-old Dalmatian with a gentle, fun-loving demeanor (she likes to play dress-up!) and a penchant for spotted toys, like her beloved cow

THE DIGS: From the pared-down Windsor chairs to the minimalist striped wallpaper, this sleek sitting area is filled with fresh takes on classic style that will have you saying “hot diggity”!

STRIPED WALLPAPER

Another graphic touch, this blue stripe works because it's small in scale. The round mirror reinforces the room's geometric mix. **Closet Stripe Wallpaper**, \$170/roll; farrow-ball.com. **Hudson Mirror**, \$159; homedecorators.com

PRIZE TROPHIES

These black-and-white accents (surrounded by other spray-painted ones) are appropriately covered in newspaper. **Trophies**, from \$28; codyfosterandco.com

FIERY ACCESSORIES

The Dalmatian is the unofficial mascot of fire stations, so we couldn't resist adding a few high-octane, coral-red pieces to warm up the room's black-and-white scheme. **Pillows** (similar to shown), \$28 for a 24" cover; shopnorthern.etsy.com. **Riviera Black Tall Windsor Chair**, \$399; crateandbarrel.com

SPOTTED OTTOMAN

The slipcover fabric is a spot-on match for Dalmatian fur and a bonafide steal at just \$17.50 per yard. The pattern's subtle stripe adds an understated twist. **Charcoal Dots fabric**, \$17.50/yard; spoonflower.com



FOR THE DOG!

Made of durable canvas, this hydrant squeak toy is *almost* as appealing as the real deal. **Fetch Dog Toy Fire Hydrant**, \$8; oreoriginals.com

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DAPPER & DISTINGUISHED

THE DOG: Agnes, a 3-year-old basset hound who likes to snooze on her favorite chair almost as much as she enjoys wolfing down her favorite snack: scrambled eggs

THE DIGS: A mix of warm colors, dashing prints, and cozy textures make for a polished and dignified reading lair—no bones about it!

LEATHER WINGBACK

The traditional profile, pet-friendly leather upholstery, and nailhead trim are worthy of the most esteemed master (or his dog).

Hawthorne Leather Wing Chair, \$2,180; fourhands.com.

Miles Floor Lamp, \$485; schoolhouseelectric.com

STATELY BOOKSHELF

Complete with bronze label tags, this well-priced oak bookshelf is seriously handsome. **Barrister bookcase** (35" wide), \$209.99; sauder.com

PLAID WALLPAPER

Move over, houndstooth. This sporty plaid and its collegiate colorway evoke an old-school, hunting-lodge vibe. **Regent's Glen Wallpaper**, \$58.99/roll; yorkwall.com

SQUATTY FOOTSTOOL

Kick up your feet on this low-to-the-ground, hide-upholstered footstool reminiscent of the basset's short, sturdy build. **Cowhide Ottoman** (similar to shown), \$425; thecowpelt.etsy.com



FOR THE DOG!

Made of double-braided nylon, this rope leash is striking and strong, just like the basset hound. **Dog Rope Leash in Forest Green**, \$65; filson.com



Cats everywhere are having a hard time smelling their litter boxes thanks to Fresh Step® Triple Action



freshstep.com

CHEERFUL & CASUAL

THE DOG: Jazz, a 2-year-old golden retriever who's in touch with her tomboy side (if there's a mud puddle nearby, she'll find it!)

THE DIGS: Relaxed style combines with happy hues in this laid-back living room that practically begs you to cuddle up with man's best friend.

COMFY SOFA

The washable white slipcover protects it from inevitable shedding and slobber. A patterned throw minimizes wear and tear.

Harrington Sofa, \$2,595; mgbw.home.com. **Vintage Kantha quilt**, \$79; jaisalmerhandloom.etsy.com

ALL-AMERICAN PALETTE

Ralph Lauren Home's new paint treatment mimics the look of chambray. The glass lamp filled with cobalt tennis balls adds a playful, sporty vibe.

Ralph Lauren Indigo Faux Denim in Plaster White base plus Cabana Blue glaze, \$29.98/gallon; home.depot.com. **Nantucket Lamp (large)**, \$450; simonpearce.com

GOLDEN ACCESSORIES

A striped pillow and stacks of *National Geographic* magazines brighten up the space with pops of color as sunny as the retriever's disposition. **Edie pillow cover in canary (24")**, \$45; birchlane.com

SHAGGY RUG

Call off the dogs! With this neutral furry pick—inspired by the retriever's glorious coat—your search for the perfect barefoot-friendly rug is over. **Flo-kati Fluff Rug**, \$299 for 5' x 8'; landofnod.com



FOR THE DOG:

This chambray accessory adds preppy polish to any pup. **Dog Bowtie Collar in Swiss Dot Chambray**, \$42; pecanpiepuppies.mysupadupa.com

#1 IN A SERIES

NEW DIRECTIONS IN FILM

A WEB SERIES INSIDER WHO'S DRIVING CREATIVITY

ONE OF THE PROLIFIC FUNNY MEN behind *HBO: Funny or Die Presents* and "The Shaman," **PAUL STEPHAN** is part of the Internet series boom that is bringing a new freedom to Hollywood. To match this writer/producer and father of two with the perfect ride, we got insider advice from *Car and Driver* enthusiast **STEWART GRAHAM**. Find out if his choice—the **CHEVROLET EQUINOX**—was the right one.

PAUL STEPHAN

Co-writer, *HBO: Funny or Die Presents*

EVEN AMID PITCHING A NETWORK SITCOM, FINISHING A SCREENPLAY ("SPACE BACHELOR PARTY: WHAT HAPPENS IN SPACE STAYS IN SPACE") AND LAUNCHING THE RETAIL STORE GOLDIE'S ON 4TH, PAUL MOST ENJOYS TIME SPENT WITH KIDS DYLAN AND SCARLETT.

MY NEW DISCOVERY

"THE SLIDING REAR SEAT MAKES ROOM FOR LITTLE LEAGUE EQUIPMENT. And the available Rear Entertainment System lets my kids watch a DVD with wireless headsets while I listen to music up front. **EQUINOX** really feels designed for our lives."

—PAUL



CHEVROLET EQUINOX



EXCLUSIVE
INSIDER'S TAKE ON
THE CHEVROLET EQUINOX



—the— NEWS

FOR COUNTRY LIVING READERS

After test-driving the **Chevrolet EQUINOX**, auto enthusiast **Stewart Graham** walked away certain that the crossover offered the versatility Paul needed (with zero compromises).

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CHEVROLET



Shown with available dealer-installed Chevrolet Accessories.

¹ Requires compatible device, active OnStar service and data plan. Visit onstar.com for details and system limitations.

ROMANTIC & REGAL

THE DOG: Brody, a 4-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, who loves chicken jerky, chasing balls, and hanging out with his best friend, a cat named Spencer

THE DIGS: With its tailored upholstery and ladylike details, this refined reading nook makes lounging around look graceful. Talk about sitting pretty.



Atmospheric
Benjamin Moore

GALLERY WALL

Hung salon style, Old Masters-inspired artwork as pedigreed (looking, anyway) as the Cavalier himself lends a cultivated feel to the sitting space. **Kenyan Landscape**, \$300; soicher-marin.com. **Simply Devine Swing Arm Lamp**, \$169; shadesoflight.com.

BLACK-AND-WHITE CHINTZ

This fit-for-a-king fabric echoes the Cavalier's crisp black-and-white fur and proves once and for all that chintz is both timeless and fresh. **Schumacher Pyne Hollyhock Print in Charcoal**, \$88.20/yard; mahoneswallpapershop.com

FRINGED CURTAINS

A playful nod to the Cavalier's long, silky ears, the fringe trim ups the pretty factor in this smart space. **Bullion Fringe Panel**, starting at \$142.97; ballarddesigns.com

SOFT CHAISE

Gentle rolled arms and a plush single cushion make this lounge perfect for sinking into after you've been working like a, well, you know. **Baldwin Upholstered Chaise** (similar to shown), \$1,199; ballarddesigns.com

SEE RESOURCE GUIDE, page 103, for more info on the products in this story.



FOR THE DOG:

Because every king needs his own (wicker) throne, even when he's more likely to end up in your lap. **Wicker dog bed**, \$99; wickerparadise.com



from this... →

Bring the Outside In

Let the scenic charm of the country inspire your next decorating project! We used this photo of a pumpkin patch in a cornfield to pull together the pieces for an inviting room.

...to that!

The Country-Inspired Breakfast Nook

Floor-to-ceiling essentials for a casual dining spot



SETTEE

At 58 inches wide, this high-backed bench covered in orange linen is a snug alternative to all-chair seating. **Blair Bench in Mandarin Linen**, from \$1,099; ballarddesigns.com



LIGHTING

With its warm finish and domed shade, this light is our pick of the patch. **Southton Copper Dome Pendant**, \$99.99; lampsplus.com



WALLPAPER

Grass-hued woven paper will give your walls a fresh-from-the-fields look. **Green Grasscloth**, \$117/double roll; stevesblindsandwallpaper.com



TABLE

The barrel-inspired base makes it perfect for small spaces. **Carson Dining Table**, \$499; homedecorators.com



CHAIR

Round out your seating mix with a pair of these subtly striped, oval-backed chairs. **Safavieh Side Chairs**, \$299.95/pair; overstock.com



WREATH

Harvest seasonal style for your walls with this 28-inch wheat accent. **Wheat Wreath**, \$89.95; crateandbarrel.com



SERVING WARE

Dish out oatmeal (or Pumpkin, Beef, and Black Bean Chili, page 88!) in these oven-safe, individual ceramic casseroles. **Orange Pumpkin Baker**, \$4.99; worldmarket.com



RUG

This eco-friendly rug is made of natural jute and vegetable dyes. **Cooper Moss Jute Woven Rug**, \$353 for 5' x 8'; dashandalbert.com



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out and about

Advice from our country vet, plus mountain retreats on the market



Ask a Country Vet

Animal expert **DR. TRICIA EARLEY** shares tips for proper puppy nutrition, pet-safe Halloween costumes, and more.

Q I'm interested in cooking for my new puppy. Is this a healthy alternative? Will he gain enough weight?

—K.B., Valparaiso, IN

A While store-bought dog foods provide a well-balanced diet, home-cooked options can be just as nutritious. Dogs require a protein-heavy menu, so consider combinations such as boiled chicken and white rice, ground turkey and potatoes, or ground beef and pasta. (If these sound a bit bland, that's intentional. Spices are hard on a dog's sensitive digestive system.) Should you attempt an exclusively home-cooked diet, you'll want to add a vitamin supplement. (Dietary needs vary by breed, so ask your vet for recommendations.) And remember: Puppies need to be fed more frequently than adult dogs, so consult with your vet about an appropriate feeding schedule and your pup should pack on the pounds just fine.



Q I'm an avid knitter and am interested in raising Angora rabbits to create yarn from their hair. How much space do they require? *—N.H., Piney Flats, TN*

A Angora rabbits make lovely pets, thanks to their calm demeanor. They can be large (some weigh as much as 12 pounds), so they require generously sized living quarters. A 36"W x 30"H wire cage is ideal. (Provide regular exercise with daily hopping sessions out of the cage.) When choosing a type and/or number of rabbits, consider how much yarn you'd like: English and French Angoras produce about 10 to 16 ounces of wool annually (enough for a pair of mittens), while Giants and Germans produce twice that amount. Collect the wool when your rabbit naturally sheds (typically three to four times per year). And, by all means, send your Country Vet a scarf!



Q Are pet costumes safe? I'd like to dress up my black cat, Shadow, for Halloween. *—E.P., Boulder, CO*

A Who doesn't love an animal in a costume? Still, there are definite safety measures to consider when choosing a get-up for your pet. Avoid garments with bells or other small objects that could pose a choking hazard—particularly for cats, who are likely to mistake those embellishments for toys—and never leave a costumed pet unsupervised. (Dog owners: Follow the same guidelines and beware of overheating.) If Shadow is an indoor cat, keep him in a secured room while trick-or-treaters come and go. Far too many curious (and skittish!) felines wander off on October 31.



Q Are there any precautions I need to take for my German shepherd, Princess, as I begin a compost pile this fall?

—L.C., Baytown, TX

A If not properly managed, a compost pile poses a serious health hazard for your pet. As food decomposes, it creates a harmful mold that, if swallowed, can cause vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, and even seizures. I'm sure Princess is a classy gal, but dogs can't be trusted to pass up the chance to dine on a heap of smelly compost. Bottom line: House your compost in a securely enclosed container.



HAVE A PET QUESTION?

Drop Dr. Earley a line at countryvet@countryliving.com

Real Estate Sampler

These charming mountain homes make escaping to the great outdoors as simple as stepping out your back door.



◀ COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

\$399,000

This 1,817-square-foot, circa 1890 retreat provides the best of both worlds: proximity to downtown Colorado Springs and the glory that is Pikes Peak. *Agent: Joanna Thompson; thompsonsellsproperties.com*



▲ SODA SPRINGS, CA

\$269,000

Nestled atop Donner Summit, this cozy, 1,000-square-foot escape boasts views of Soda Springs Ski Resort from its spacious, shady deck. *Agent: Krista Weidman; serenelakes.com*

BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC ▶

\$259,000

With 2,036 square feet of living space, this 101-year-old gem features a covered porch, built-in shelving, and a large pup-friendly yard. *Agent: Joan Hall Weaver; kellerwilliams blackmountain.com*



RED LODGE, MT ▶

\$185,000

Dating to 1910, this quaint cottage offers 1,064 square feet, plus a hot tub and loads of curb appeal. *Agent: Marcella Manuel; coldwellbanker.com*



▲ SANDPOINT, ID

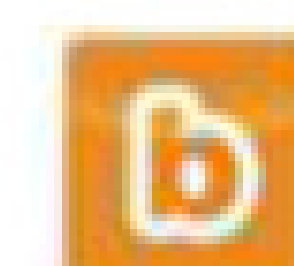
\$229,000

At 1,336-square-feet, this cheerful 1931 home is just an easy bike ride away from the town center. Bonus: The scenic property also comes with a detached two-car garage and workshop. *Agent: Jake Oliver; jaketherealtor.com*

WAITSFIELD, VT ▶

\$369,900

Built in 1914, this 2,406-square-foot, Colonial-style home touts generously sized rooms, lush mountain views, and a wide front porch. *Agent: Neil Johnson; wesellvermontrealestate.com*



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in the fight against cancer—to make a difference
all around the world.”*

Ralph Lauren

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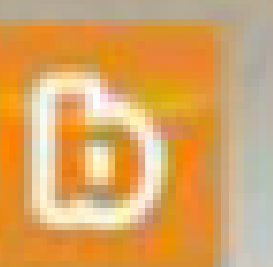


PUMPKIN PICKING!

Your search for a showstopping gourd ends here!
Whether you're looking to go playful,
pretty, or somewhere in between, you're bound
to find a fresh-off-the-vine idea right here.
(Knife skills optional!)

WRITTEN BY JEANNE M. LYONS
PRODUCED BY LINDSEY ELLIS BEATTY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNIFER CAUSEY

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BURLAP RIBBON

Tie on country charm with this rustic fabric.

PROCESS: Secure a strip of narrow burlap ribbon (\$2.99/roll; joann.com) to the top of the shell using hot-glue, then run ribbon along the side of the pumpkin and secure it to the bottom with glue. Repeat as desired. Twist ribbon to add two curled tendrils at the top. Secure with hot-glue. (Wired or coiled ribbon will hold its shape best.)

SKILL LEVEL: 🍂

THUMB TACK MESSAGE

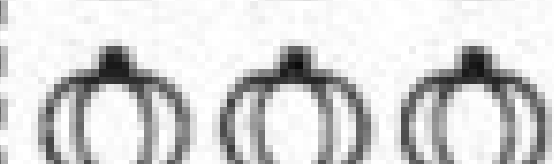
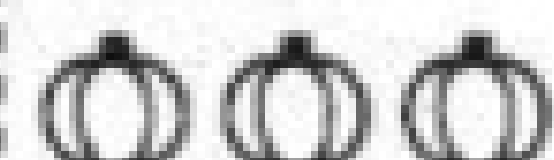
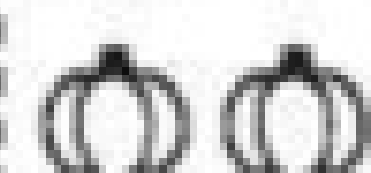
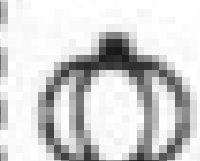
Create a tack-o'-lantern with this office store staple.

PROCESS: Paint pumpkin desired color in a matte finish (Annie Sloan Chalk Paint in Florence; anniesloan.com for stores). Write letters with an erasable wax pencil, then use a hammer to tap in nailheads along the script. (The shorter the word, the more clearly it will read.)

SKILL LEVEL: 🍂 🍂

SKILL KEY:

EASY



HARD

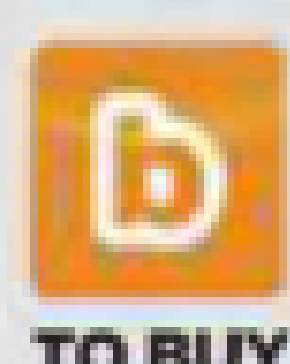


DEER

Wrap tree branch “antlers” with yarn for a colorful woodland creature.

PROCESS: Start with a plain white pumpkin, such as Lumina. Wind yarn tightly around branches in a color-blocked pattern, using image as a guide. Secure loose yarn ends to branches with hot-glue. To insert antlers, drill two holes into the upper third of the shell, angling the drill bit down so antlers stick up, not out. Attach button eyes, a triangle felt nose, and pinched felt triangle ears with hot-glue.

SKILL LEVEL: ○○○



TO BUY

OWL

Trick-or-treaters will get a real hoot out of this wide-eyed bird.

PROCESS: Use hot-glue to secure head and body pumpkins together. Cut out two circles (roughly the size of a cupcake liner bottom) from light brown paper and insert them into two white liners. For the pupils, add two smaller round black dots. To create lashes, cut a brown cupcake liner in half and glue each half to the side of each white liner. Hot-glue completed eyes to the pumpkin. For wings, cut a brown and a white liner in half and paste to sides of bottom pumpkin as shown. Cut triangle beak and feet from black card stock. Glue to body.

SKILL LEVEL: ○○

FOX

Put a friendly face on this clever fella with playful coiled yarn.

PROCESS: Outline face onto the surface in pencil, using image as a guide. For eyes, hot-glue black and orange yarn in a spiral pattern directly onto pumpkin surface. Hot-glue a continuous piece of white yarn in a teardrop pattern, repeating until space is filled. Outline the eyes with rust yarn as shown, then add a black yarn mouth and a black pom-pom nose. For ears, glue felt on cover-weight paper backing (\$3.75; papersource.com). Cut into triangles, trim with rust yarn, and adhere to pumpkin with glue.

SKILL LEVEL: ○○○○



CHALK DRAWINGS

Black is the new orange! Display a spooky message or motif with this easy how-to.

PROCESS: Coat the surface with chalkboard spray-paint (\$3.75; homedepot.com). Let dry, then use a white chalk marker (\$4.99; chalkink.com) to add a festive phrase or illustration. Hosting a Halloween party? You can also write your menu on a pumpkin and display it on a sideboard alongside the eats.

SKILL LEVEL: 🍷 🍷



DRILLED SHAPES

We're over the moon for these dotted odes to country icons.

PROCESS: Cut a hole in the bottom of a large pumpkin and scoop out pulp and seeds. Mark off a pattern with an erasable wax pencil, then use a medium drill bit to punch out a dotted outline of your image. (Get our stencils at countryliving.com/drilltemplates.) Leave approximately the same amount of space between each hole.

SKILL LEVEL: 🍷🍷



DUCT TAPE ANTLERS

Create a simple-yet-striking decal with a household mainstay.

PROCESS: Trace a simple design onto the pumpkin surface. Cut and apply duct (or washi) tape to the lines for a quick and easy buck-stops-here embellishment.

SKILL LEVEL: 🍷



CROSS-STITCH MONOGRAM

Personalize your pumpkin with a little embroidery.

PROCESS: Cut a hole in the bottom of a large pumpkin and scoop out pulp and seeds. Using an erasable wax pencil, draw a series of Xs to create your desired letter. (Try the alphabet tool at stitchpoint.com for inspiration.) Use a small drill bit to pierce holes at the “corners” of each X. Using a large needle, thread butcher’s twine through the openings in an “x” pattern to create a cross-stitched effect.

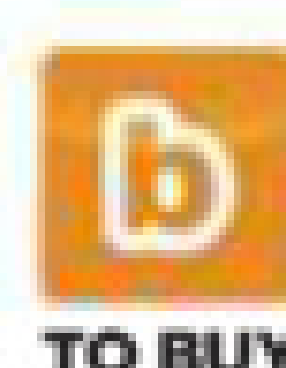
SKILL LEVEL: ○ ○ ○ ○

RUBBER BAND SPIDER WEB

Turn desk supplies into a festive cobweb in a snap.

PROCESS: Simply stretch and place large rubber bands around a small- to medium-size pumpkin in a haphazard fashion. (Yes, it’s that easy!) We used gold spray-paint to shine up a black toy spider (\$7.55; amazon.com), but you can accessorize your web with plain old black ones too.

SKILL LEVEL: ○



TO BUY



CARVED “BOO” JAR

This ode to the iconic Ball Mason jar features “fireflies” courtesy of string lights.

PROCESS: Cut a hole in the bottom of the gourd and scoop out pulp and seeds. Tape transfer paper (\$6.99; *michaels.com*) onto the surface, followed by our downloadable jar sketch (*countryliving.com/boojar*). Trace design using a pencil; remove papers. Trace design using a pencil; remove papers.

Using an X-Acto knife (\$6.96; *amazon.com*), follow the transferred image to chisel the outline of the jar onto the pumpkin, then use a linoleum cutter (\$13.35; *amazon.com*) to gently shave the surrounding area as shown. For fireflies, cut several holes with a small clay hole cutter (\$7.99; *amazon.com*), then illuminate with battery-powered lights.

SKILL LEVEL: ○○○○





Joan's dog, Etta (in the doorway, above), surveys the scenic fall landscape.



THE ENTRYWAY

THE KEY PIECE: A weathered blue trunk

WHY IT WORKS: One of Joan's favorite possessions for more than 35 years, the antique trunk provides convenient and much needed storage just inside the front door of her compact home.

Cool, Calm, Collected

When shop owner and author Joan Osofsky moved from a sprawling New York farmhouse to a quaint Connecticut cottage, she faced a difficult task: fitting furniture and art acquired over a lifetime into a mere 1,000 square feet. After reevaluating every single piece, she edited carefully and then created an artfully layered, not at all cluttered, home.

WRITTEN BY ELIZABETH JENKINS PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GRUEN STYLING BY CHRISTINA WRESSSELL



Eggshell
Benjamin Moore

“My signature look has clean lines and vintage pieces. It’s possible to have a house full of old items without clutter or fuss.”



◀◀ THE DINING ROOM

THE KEY PIECES:

An early-American hutch and an English apple-picking ladder

WHY THEY WORK:

The hutch's vibrant mustard hue (original to the piece) creates a bold accent color that reappears throughout the mostly neutral home. Embracing the art of compromise in decorating a small space, Joan chose a fold-up dining table to accommodate the hutch's large scale. She utilized every remaining inch by propping up the circa 1800s ladder to display antique textiles that would have otherwise been hidden in a drawer. The room embodies Joan's signature look: a mix of vintage pieces with clean lines. "It's possible to have a house full of old items without clutter or fuss," she says.



×



×

◀◀ THE KITCHEN

THE KEY PIECE: A 19th-century Turkish runner

WHY IT WORKS: The beautifully aged rug is a hardworking focal point in the narrow galley kitchen. It protects the newly whitewashed hardwood floors and adds a sophisticated swath of saturated color to the room's otherwise monochromatic palette. For a subtle hint of dimension, Joan relied on one of her favorite small-space decorating tricks: painting the cabinetry a shade 50% darker than the walls.

×



◀◀ THE BEDROOM

THE KEY PIECES: Vintage Kantha quilts and a folk art painting

WHY THEY WORK: The bedroom echoes Joan's design philosophy: "Start with a base of solids and add interest with rich colors and intricate patterns." In this case, those come in the form of Indian Kantha quilts (made from sari remnants) at the foot of the bed and a moody oil painting above. "I'm not a cat person, but I've always loved this work," she says. "Bringing along the pieces you love most makes a new home feel just as special as an old one."

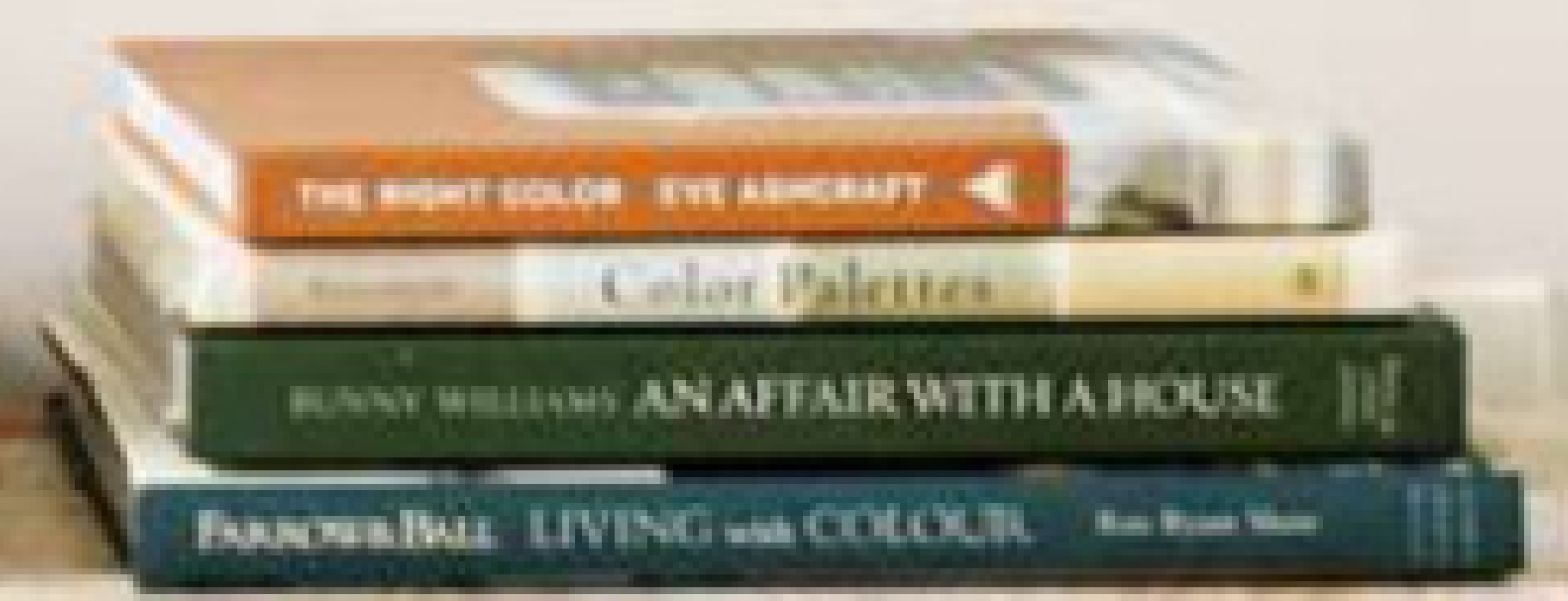
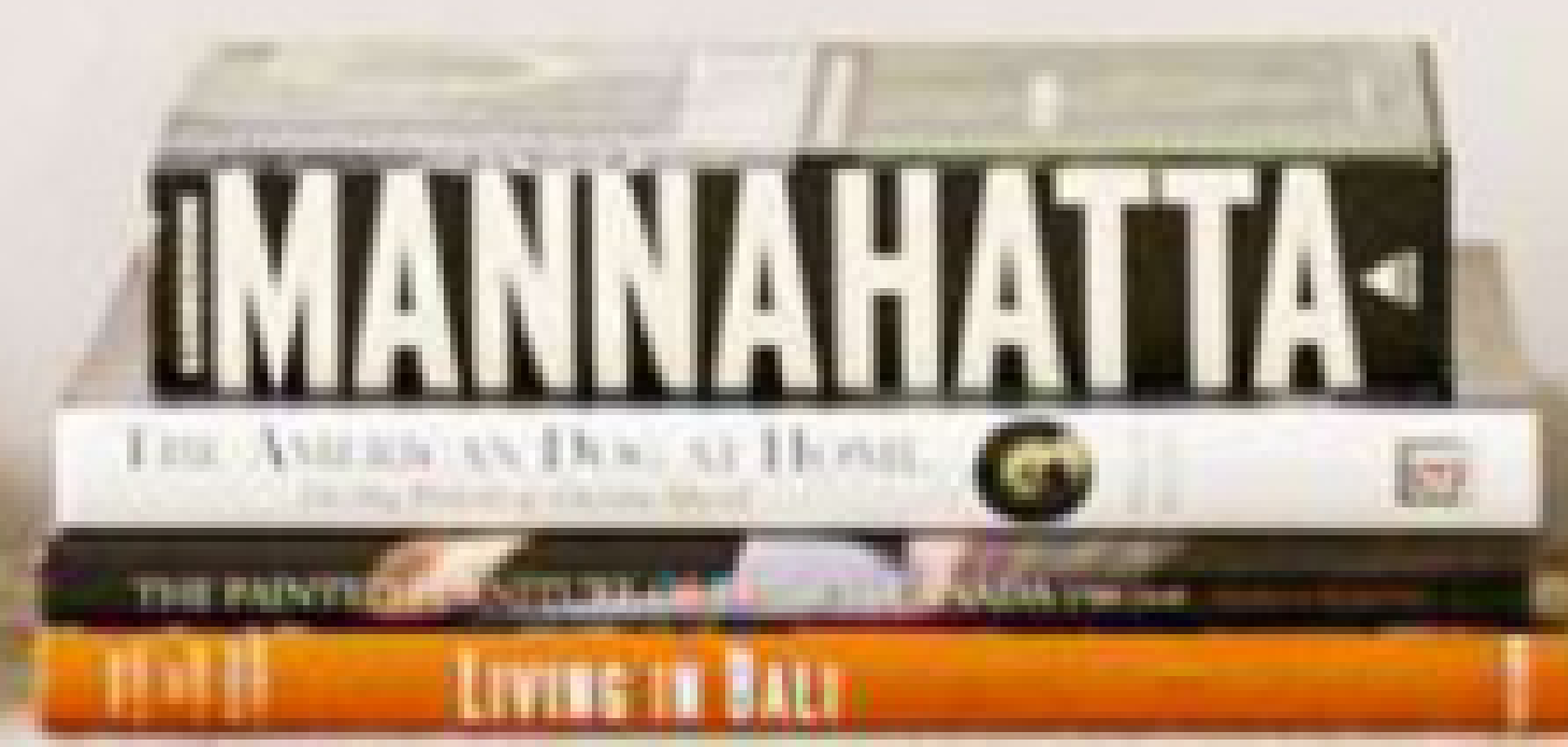
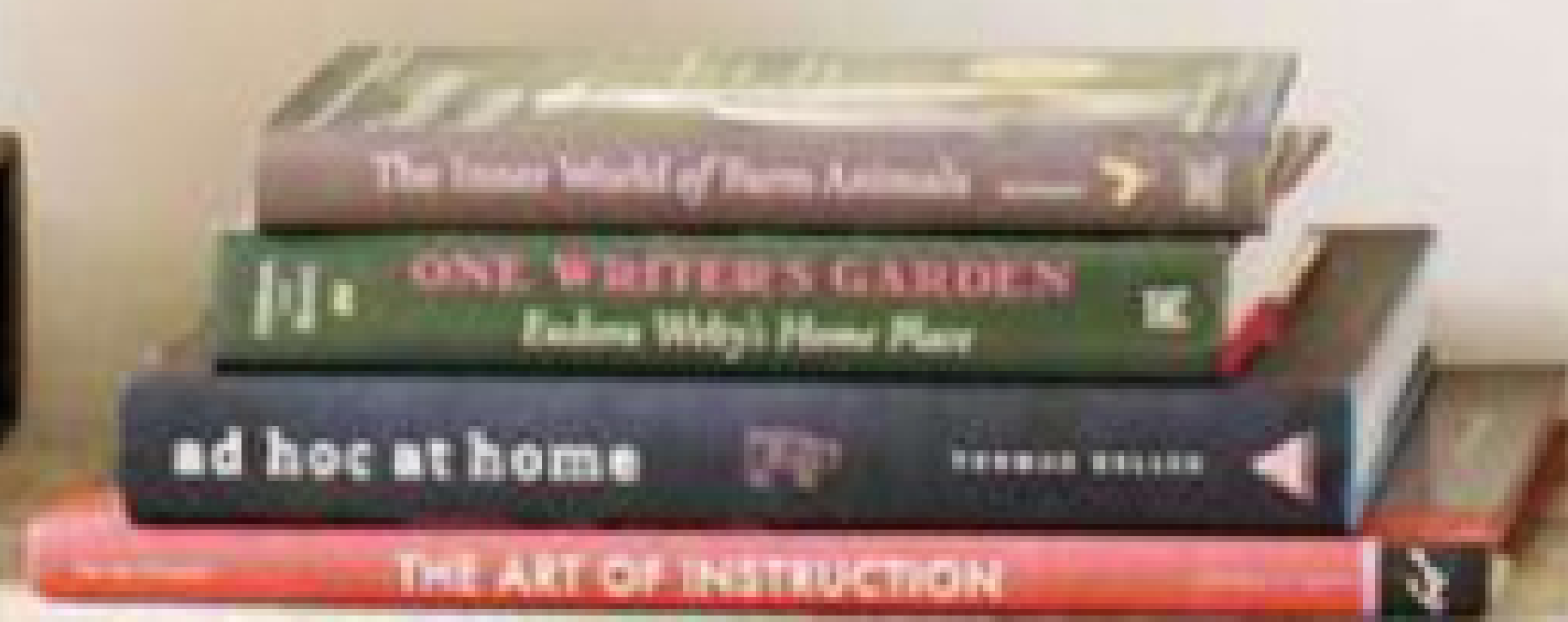
THE SITTING ROOM ▶▶

THE KEY PIECES: An assortment of black Toleware trays

WHY THEY WORK: In her old house, Joan kept her beloved collection of Toleware (a style of hand-painted tin popular in the U.S. during the 18th century) in the spacious formal dining room. With no such storage in the cottage, she selected a handful of her favorites to create a stunning art installation in the sitting room. Encircling the largest one with trays of varying scale creates a cohesive look among the mismatched patterns.

“Bringing along the pieces you love most makes a new home feel just as special as an old one.”

Joan Osofsky is the owner of Hammertown, a home decor shop in Pine Plains, New York, and the author of *Love Where You Live: At Home in the Country* (Rizzoli).





EXTERIOR

BEFORE

The brown siding and bright green roof felt dated—like a giant version of a Lincoln Log play set.

AFTER

+ A couple of coats of a darker forest green paint on the metal roof and black on the logs took the house from outdated to modern-day rustic.

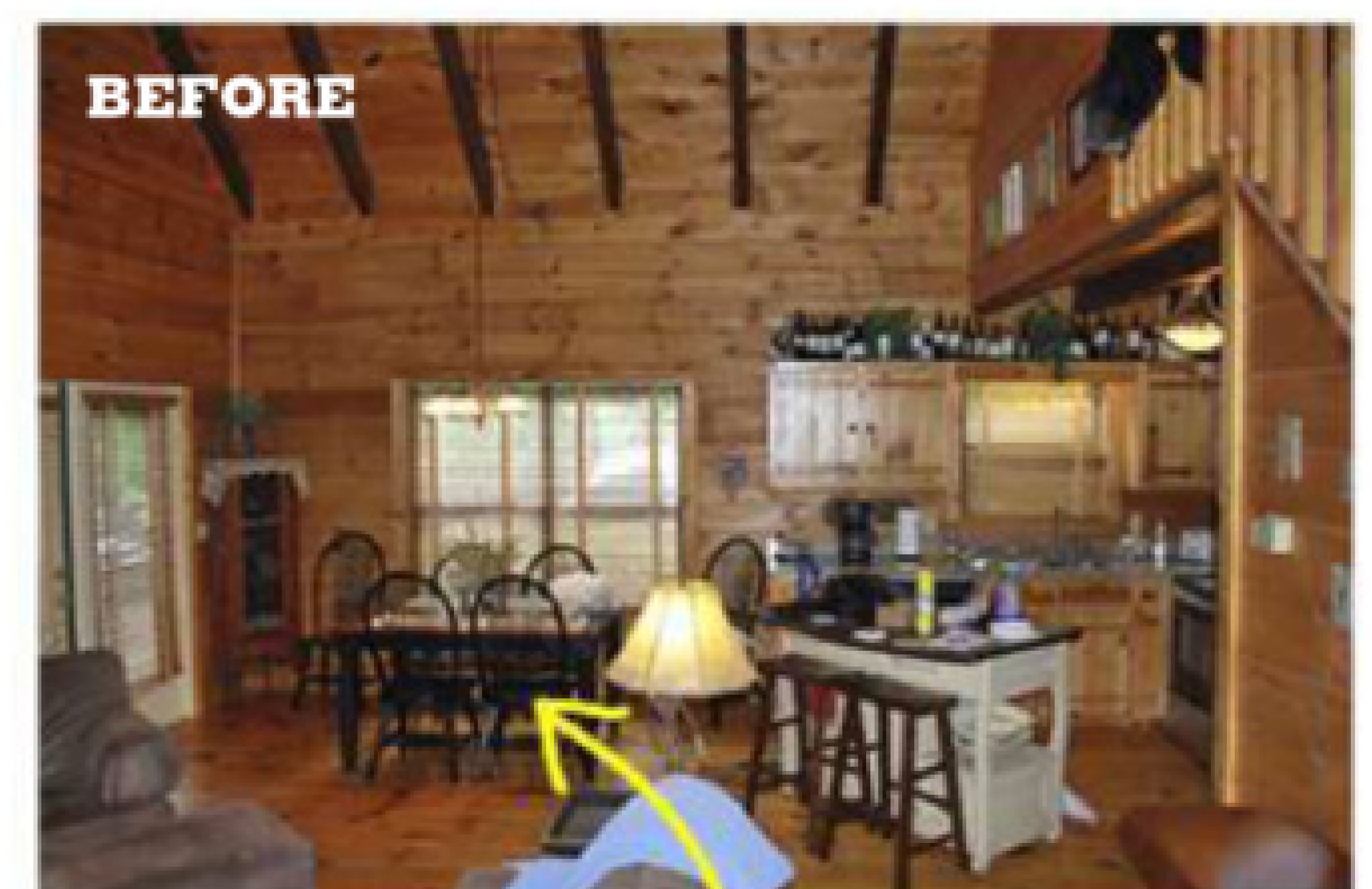
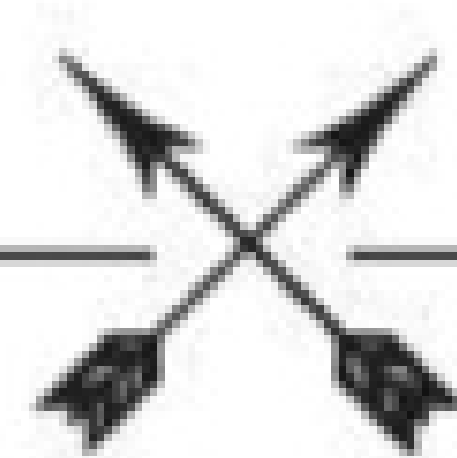
+ Widening the front steps to the full width of the deck and adding a simple wooden pergola gave the entrance a little more presence and a lot more charm.

+ Solid wood French doors in place of the original aluminum ones say “Come on in,” not “Keep out!”

A MODERN CURE FOR CABIN FEVER

With a healthy dose of preppy plaids, cheerful checks, and gallons of white paint, designer and blogger Brian Patrick Flynn reveals how he revived this dated Georgia log cabin without breaking the bank.

Written by **Brian Patrick Flynn** Photographs by **Sarah Dorio**



DINING ROOM

BEFORE

The wimpy little rectangular table had absolutely no presence, making the dining area feel practically nonexistent.

AFTER

- ✦ A 60-inch round marble tabletop on a welded steel pedestal base comfortably seats up to eight without taking up any more space than the original furniture.
- ✦ Streamlined armless chairs made of leather and iron introduce earthy materials in an elegant fashion.
- ✦ A durable, indoor-outdoor sisal rug gives the dining area its own identity within the open living/dining/kitchen space. Bonus: The rug's neutral colors and natural texture camouflage (all-too-frequent) mishaps.



A few years ago, I found myself at a crossroads: Having spent a decade traveling for work between Atlanta and Los Angeles, I realized that unless I wanted to totally miss out on being youngish, I'd have to slow down. So I headed for the hills. And by hills, I mean the North Georgia mountains. Just like Goldilocks, I found myself wandering through bear country looking at options too small or too big, until I found the "just-right" house: a 1,700-square-foot log cabin with

spectacular mountain views. Despite all of its, *ahem*, potential, it needed more than just a bowl of porridge to feel like home for this city slicker. From exterior updates to a complete interior overhaul, here's how I tore apart this mountain retreat, then put it back together again, modern country style.



LIVING ROOM

BEFORE

Covered in 100% yellow heart pine, it had approximately 0% personality.

AFTER

- + Painting the walls, ceiling, and floors white really lightened things up, and new 8-foot-tall windows and French doors (minus view-blocking wooden blinds) bring in much more sunshine.
- + The all-white backdrop cleared the way for a crisp and cozy color scheme of grey, black, and green. Gingham curtains and plaid pillows play up the preppy country feel.
- + A large rope-and-iron chandelier adds a touch of mountain style.



KITCHEN

BEFORE

More of a "corner" with appliances, it had little storage and no comfy seating.

AFTER

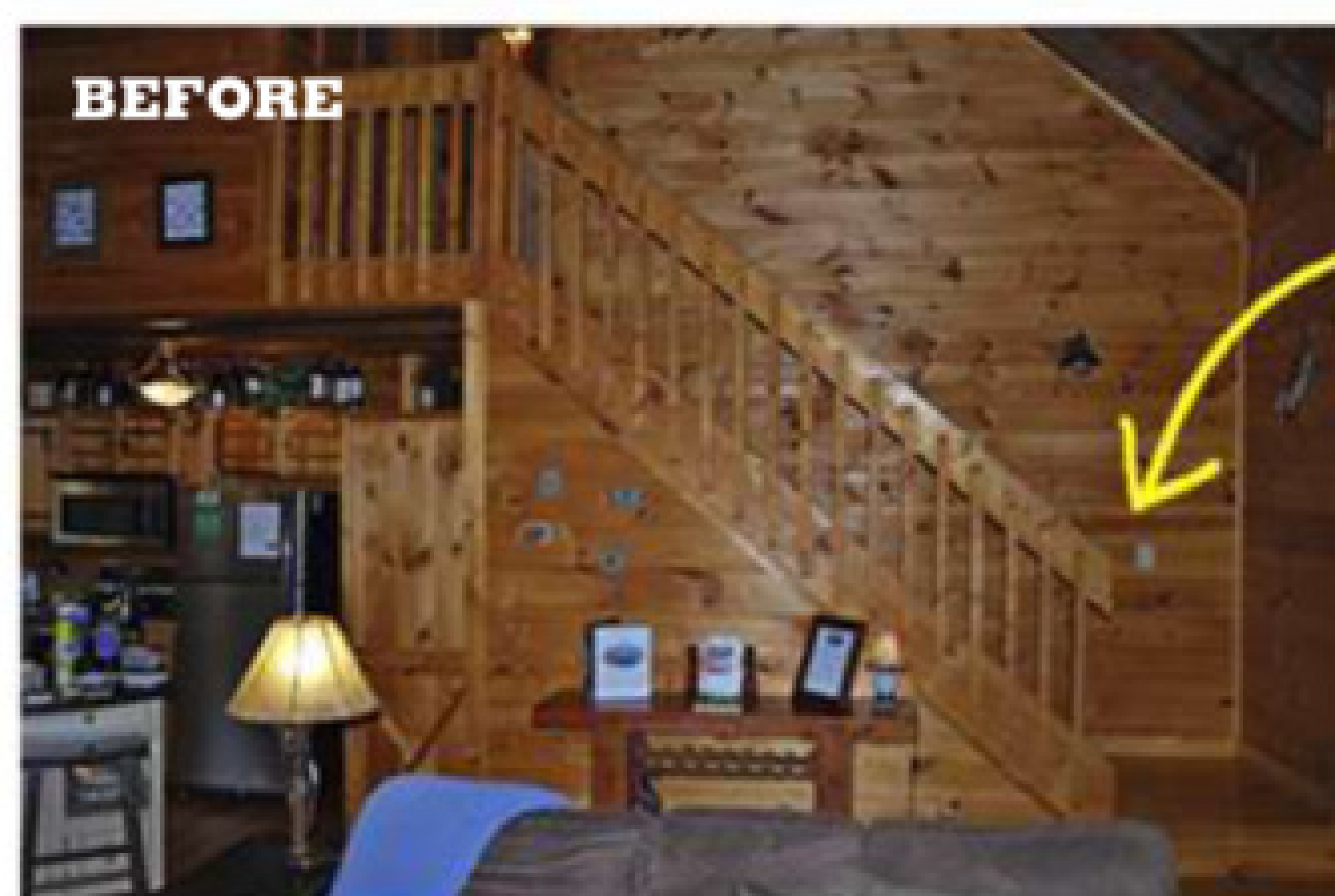
- + The butcher-block countertops, black cabinetry, large industrial pendant lights, and a porcelain apron sink—all from Ikea!—kept costs down without sacrificing style.
- + Cheap subway tile looks anything but when laid in a herringbone pattern instead of a traditional horizontal setting.
- + The new breakfast bar shrank the room's size but boosted its storage.
- + Black appliances (less expensive than stainless ones) match the cabinets for a seamless effect.





“

Black paint has classic leading-man looks and tons of personality, but it doesn't always have to play the starring role.



STAIRWELL

BEFORE

The pine handrail disappeared into the walls—a lost opportunity to showcase an architectural detail.

AFTER

+ The original banister and railing were swapped out for black powder-coated tubular steel rails from Grey Furniture. The rails extend all the way to the ceiling to help highlight the open living and dining area's soaring height.

+ Furnishing that spot with a desk instead of a console table turned what was simply a display area into a functional one—a huge bonus in a 1,700-square-foot house.





BEFORE

PORCH

BEFORE

That (unnecessary) beam smack in the middle of the space made furnishing it tricky and blocked traffic and sight lines. And that fireplace? It just looked sad, old, and dirty.

AFTER

+ Removing the beam was the first step toward converting the fireplace into a true focal point. To give it more heft, the whole thing was covered in inexpensive porcelain tile and the

firebox was spray-painted black. The brass chandelier finishes the space with a little sparkle.

+ A pair of plush, weatherproof wicker sofas (from Target!) and that recessed TV instantly turned this spot into the most inviting space in the house.

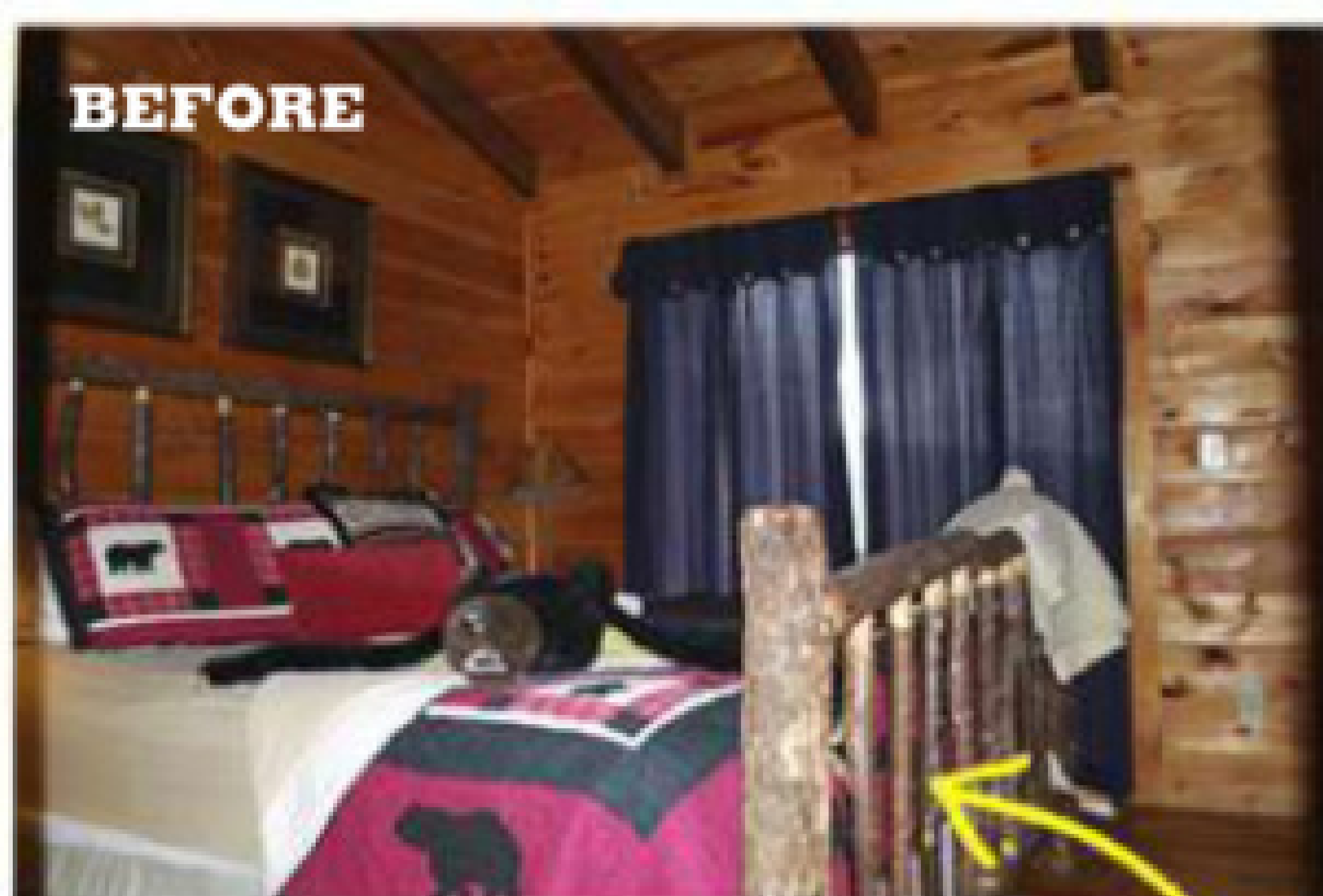
+ Painting the railings, beams, and ceiling black actually made them less overbearing than they were in their original orange-brown finish. Now, the structural elements recede and allow the foliage and mountain views to take center stage.



Deepest
Woodland Green | —○
Glidden

BH





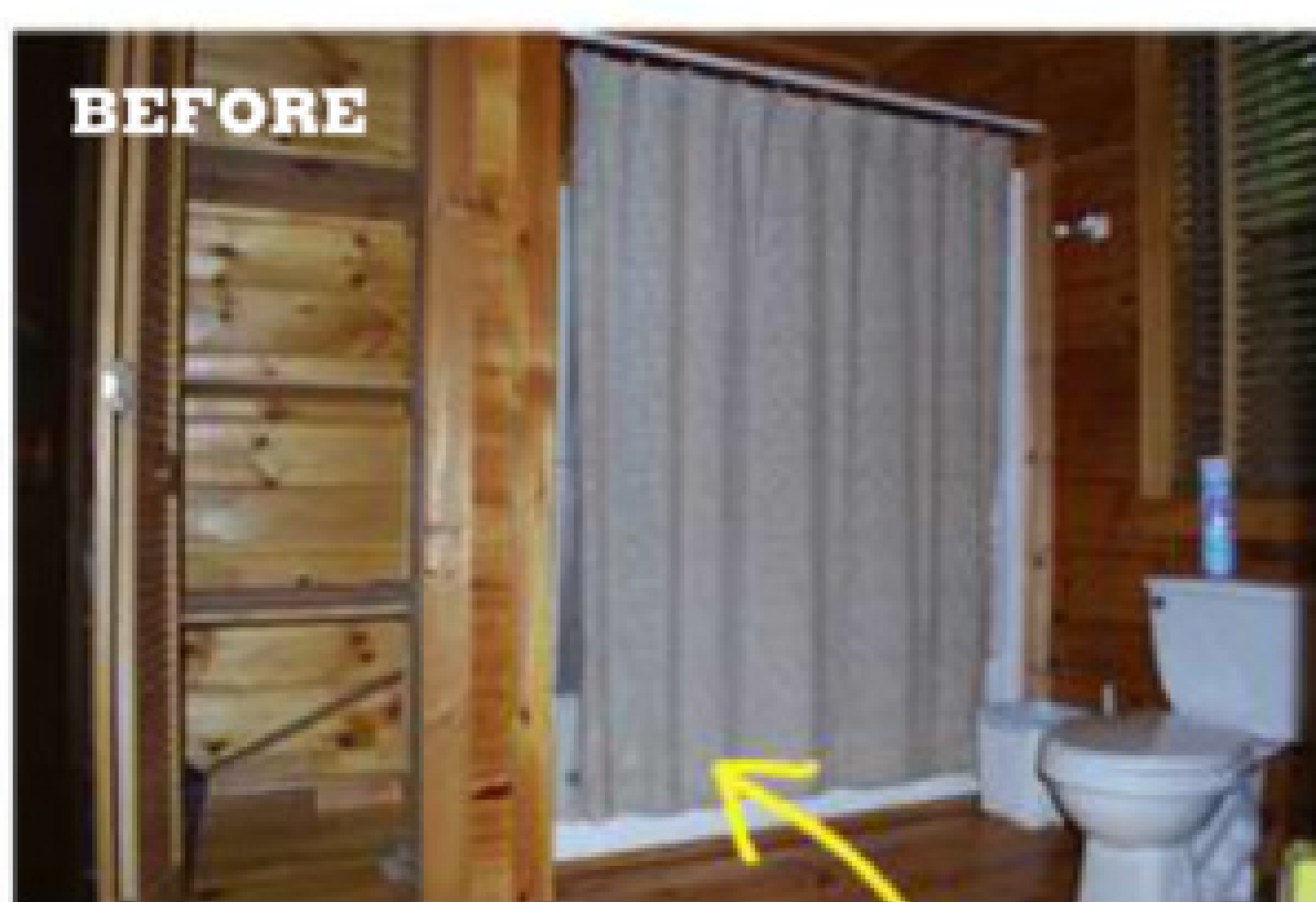
MASTER BEDROOM

BEFORE

The combination of oversize rustic furniture, knotty pine walls, and tiny windows made the small space feel cramped, not cozy.

AFTER

- + Creating a “headboard” by upholstering the back wall with soft wool plaid fabric trimmed with nailheads helps maximize space. (The mattress and box spring are now supported by a simple metal frame.)
- + A mix of textures—burlap lamp shades, a wooden chandelier, cotton ticking and gingham sheets, and leather initials—amplify the mountain cabin feel in a more subtle, sophisticated way.
- + A coat of dark green paint on the walls and ceiling reinforces the room’s snug factor.



MASTER BATH

BEFORE

The builder-grade tub insert was too small to actually enjoy.

AFTER

- + Removing the tiny tub made way for an extra-large shower space. The ceiling-mounted curtain (a custom cotton panel with a waterproof liner) creates the illusion of higher ceilings.
- + Burlap-upholstered closet doors, brass hardware, butcher-block counters, and a leather-wrapped mirror anchor the airy space with rich, warm materials.



“

Painting the pine walls changed everything, but it took a lot of time and patience. My advice: Prime like crazy and go with a sprayed-on finish.

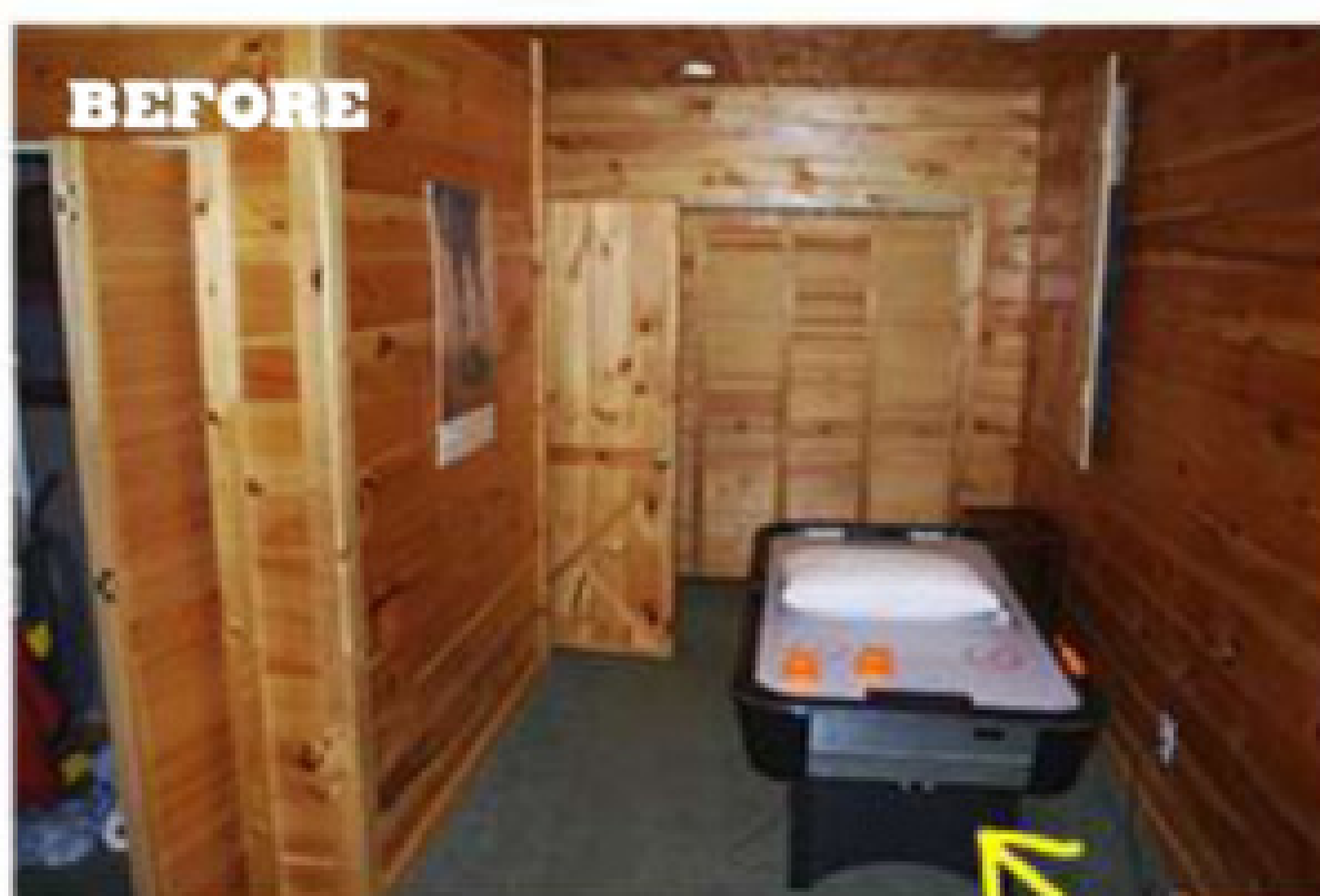
The closet doors of the blue bunk room feature an oversize paint-by-number!



Rich Navy
Glidden



Bengal Grass
Sherwin-Williams



BUNK ROOM

BEFORE

The dingy carpet and awkward layout made it useful only for storage—and less inviting than *actual* storage units.

AFTER

+ Adding built-in bunks (clad in V-groove pine to match the existing walls) turned unused space into a welcoming room. Navy paint adds to the cozy vibe.

+ New hardwood floors and warm metallic finishes (the brass sconces and gold powder-coated tubular steel ladders) give the room an updated feel.

+ Budget-friendly, hollow-core closet doors, which replaced the louvered bifold ones, were a blank slate for adding quirky charm: a 1950s paint-by-number motif featuring Yogi Bear!



GUEST ROOM

BEFORE

Dark and confined, it seemed more like a place for a time-out than a good night's sleep.

AFTER

+ Painting the walls, ceiling, and trim a pea green shade cheered things up without diminishing the homey feel.

+ Hanging Western hats around resin antlers (an animal-friendly take on the country icon) made for a lively accent wall in keeping with the rustic setting.

GET THE LOOK

Score Brian's modern country style with these handsome finds.



↑ **Wool Blanket** Wool motor robe in rogue river tartan, \$99.50; pendleton-usa.com.



← **Light Fixture** Gold pendant, \$349; stimulight.etsy.com



→ **Leather Letter** Leather studded type-setter plaque, \$149; ballard designs.com



↑ **Industrial Desk** Magnussen Lakehurst Table, \$419.99; hayneedle.com



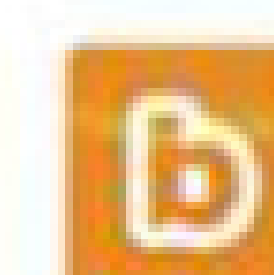
↓ **Resin Antlers** \$119; rh.com



→ **Oversize Check Fabric** Berta Ruta, \$8.99/yard; ikea.com



↓ **Paint-by-Number Artwork** \$30; blue flowervintage.etsy.com



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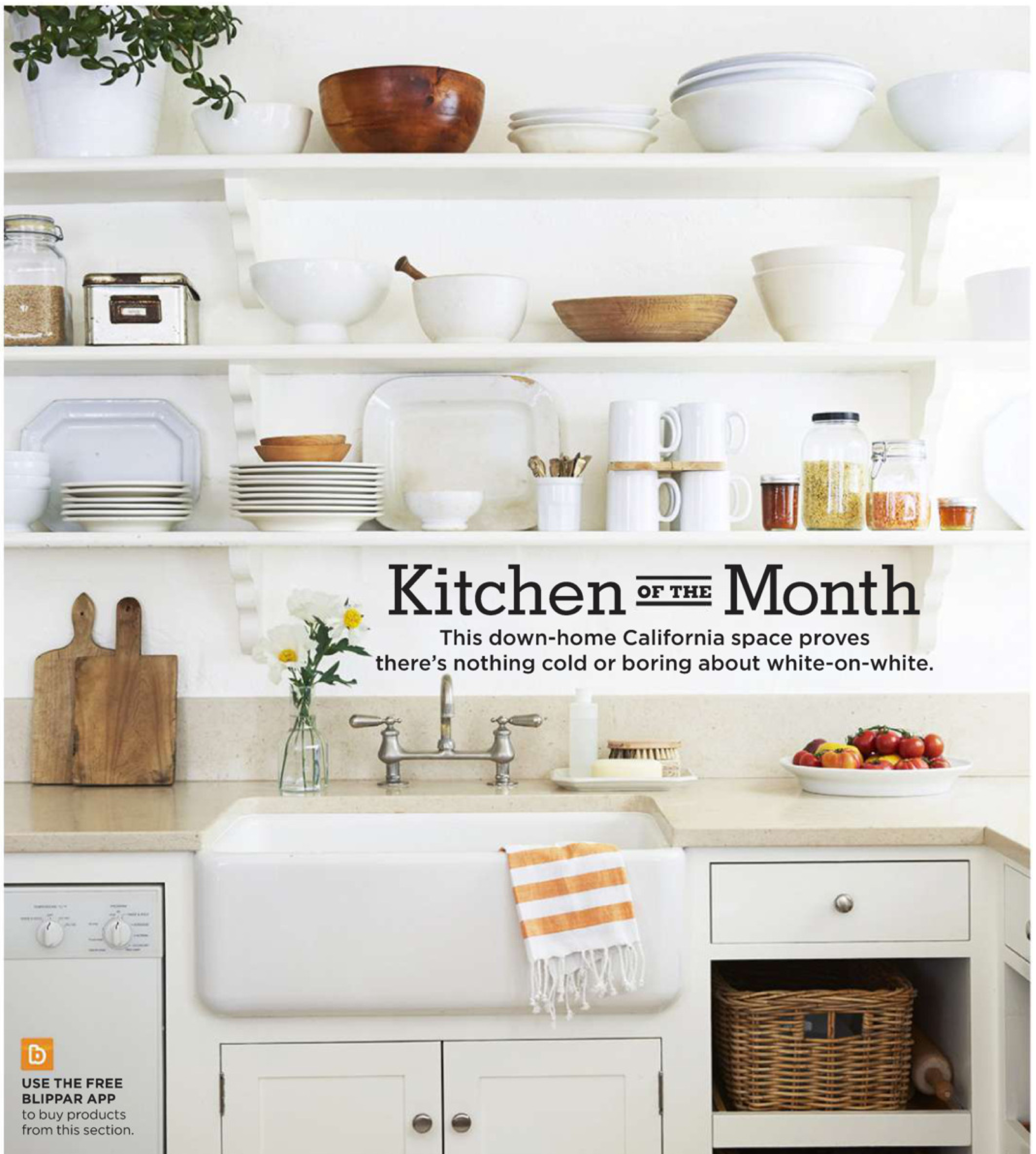
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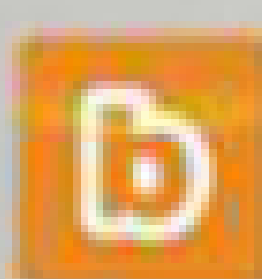
country living kitchen

Design ideas, hearty soups, sweet 'n' spooky fall treats, and more



Kitchen OF THE Month

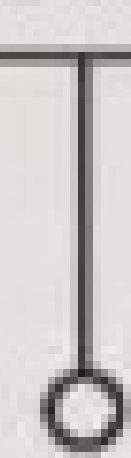
This down-home California space proves there's nothing cold or boring about white-on-white.



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1

3

2

GREAT IDEA!

Keep dish towels handy by mounting a rod on the side of a cabinet.



Six Ways To Warm Up White

Despite its neutral palette, this Ojai, California, kitchen feels cozy thanks to a rustic fireplace, thoughtful collections, and inviting accents.

① **CASUAL OPEN SHELVING:** This style of storage sets a welcoming, help-yourself tone. The bottom shelf holds everyday items, while the upper two store a mix of white and wooden serving pieces.

② **WICKER BASKETS:** Placed on shelves that roll out for easy access, these woven pieces liven up the sea of white with subtle texture.

③ **UPHOLSTERED DINING CHAIRS:** These hemp slipcovers are comfortable *and* practical: The ultrasoft, flax-colored fabric is forgiving and machine-washable.

④ **NATURAL SURFACES:**

The wooden farm table and limestone countertops add depth without overpowering the all-white basics. **Table:** Crate & Barrel, from \$1,799; crateandbarrel.com

⑤ **CORNER FIREPLACE:** Made of molded plaster, this primitive fireplace (complete with a log storage cubby) transforms the room from cook space to gathering place.

⑥ **TERRA-COTTA FLOORS:**

Reclaimed tiles from France establish an old-world farmhouse feel from the ground up.





SMART STORAGE Filled with Victoria's collection of ironstone, a Sri Lankan antique cabinet adds a rich anchor to the airy, white room. (Peeshee, her cat, stands guard.) **Cabinet:** Susanne Hollis Inc., susannehollis.com

MEET THE COOK!

Homeowner Victoria Pearson gives us an insider's look into her relaxed kitchen.

WHO DOES THE COOKING

I do! My husband, Brett, is the grill master.

BEST DESIGN ADVICE

Keep it simple—you don't need lots of fancy gadgets.

BIGGEST SPLURGE

My Miele dishwasher. It's so silent you can't even hear it from the kitchen table.

BIGGEST SAVE

Mix-and-match white dishes from thrift stores. They all go together!

COLLECTION OBSESSION

Flea market finds, from ironstone pieces and antique homespun linens to old baskets and cutting boards.

BEST KITCHEN TOOL

A copper apple tarte Tatin pan from the Paris shop E.Dehillierin.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Easy and quick cranberry scones. They're great with butter and homemade jam.

COFFEE OR TEA?

Both. Nespresso for me, and PG Tips tea for Brett.

WHAT MAKES IT COUNTRY

A help-yourself, no-fuss, eat-in attitude and a cozy, comfy style.

GET THE LOOK

Freshen up your space with these pretty staples.



Turkish Tea Towel Set \$20; cottoncocoon.etsy.com



Citrus Floral Recipe Box \$34; riflepaperco.com



White Berry Colander \$14.95; surlatable.com



Copper Tea Kettle \$60.99; overstock.com

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RECIPES AND FOOD STYLING BY MARIAN COOPER CAIRNS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY RYAN LIEBE



*Pumpkin, Beef,
and Black
Bean Chili
(page 88)*



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◀◀ (See photo on page 86)

Pumpkin, Beef, and Black Bean Chili

MAKES 6 servings

WORKING TIME 20 minutes

TOTAL TIME 45 minutes

- 1 1/4 pounds ground round
 - 1 medium sweet onion, chopped
 - 1 red bell pepper, chopped
 - 3 garlic cloves, minced
 - 2 tablespoons chili powder
 - 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 3 cups cubed sweet pumpkin or butternut squash
- 1 (15-ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- 1 (14-ounce) can low-sodium beef broth
- 1 1/4 teaspoons kosher salt
 - 1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- Sliced fresh jalapeños
- Chipotle Sour Cream

1. Cook beef in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat 8 minutes or until beef crumbles and is no longer pink. Remove with a slotted spoon. Cook onion and next 2 ingredients in drippings for 7 minutes. Stir in chili powder and next 2 ingredients, and cook 1 more minute. Stir in pumpkin and next 5 ingredients.

2. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low and simmer 20 to 25 minutes or until pumpkin is tender. Stir in cilantro and season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve with jalapeños and Chipotle Sour Cream.

Chipotle Sour Cream: Stir together 1 (8-ounce) container sour cream, 1 tablespoon minced canned chipotle chilies in adobo sauce, 2 teaspoons fresh lime zest, and 1 tablespoon lime juice. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

PER SERVING: protein: 25 g; fat: 23 g; carbohydrate: 28 g; fiber: 7 g; sodium: 1,144 mg; cholesterol: 82 mg; calories: 398.

Spicy Pork Posole

MAKES 6 servings

WORKING TIME 15 minutes

TOTAL TIME 30 minutes

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium sweet onion, chopped
- 1 poblano pepper, finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 3/4 pound coarsely shredded barbecue pork (without sauce)
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 1/4 cups jarred salsa verde
- 1 quart unsalted chicken stock
- 1 (15.5-ounce) can hominy, drained and rinsed
- Toppings:** Shredded cabbage, thinly sliced radishes, shredded Monterey Jack cheese, lime wedges, hot sauce, cilantro leaves

1. Sauté onion, pepper, and garlic in hot oil over medium-high heat 6 minutes or until tender and golden.

2. Stir in pork and next 3 ingredients and cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute. Stir in salsa and cook 3 minutes.

3. Stir in stock and hominy. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer 15 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve with desired toppings.

PER SERVING: protein: 15 g; fat: 12 g; carbohydrate: 28 g; fiber: 4 g; sodium: 846 mg; cholesterol: 30 mg; calories: 275.



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Jillian Dilorio
Eco-Accessories Creator

JILLIAN LOVES EXPLORING NATIONAL PARKS WITH HER HUSBAND, TWO CHILDREN AND THREE DOGS. PHILADELPHIA'S INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK IS A FAVORITE—AND REVISIT PROFITS HELP PROTECT THE BUILDING WHERE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS CREATED.



#1 IN A SERIES

NEW DIRECTIONS IN STYLE

AN E-COMMERCE GAME-CHANGER GOES DOWN THE CHARITY ROAD

WHEN SHE HEARD THAT HER BELOVED NATIONAL PARKS FACED DRASTIC FUNDING CUTS, "caring capitalism" pioneer **Jillian Dilorio** co-founded the green fashion/lifestyle brand REVISIT (with 25% of profits going to protect the trails and rivers of her youth). To find a car with the sustainable style Jillian was looking for, we called on auto enthusiast **Katie Poletti**. Did her choice of the **CHEVROLET MALIBU** deliver?



— the —
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— JILLIAN



CHEVROLET MALIBU



*EPA-estimated MPG city/highway 25/36

MUTUAL FUNDS OR MUTUAL FRIENDS?

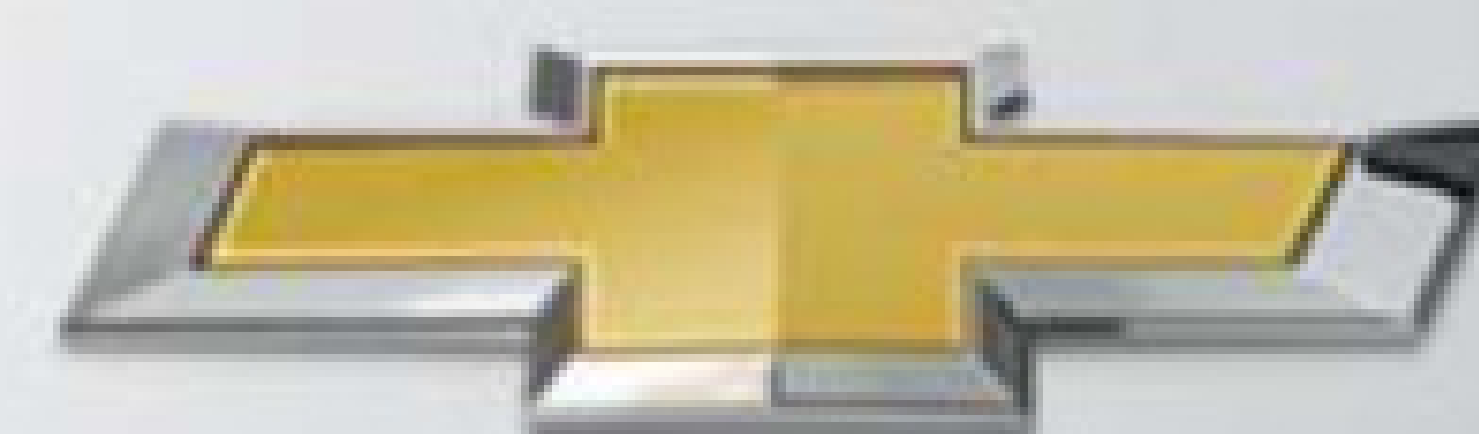


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Grilled
Cheese
Croutons!

Chunky Tomato-Red Pepper Soup

MAKES 6 servings
WORKING TIME 18 minutes
TOTAL TIME 35 minutes

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 medium red bell peppers, chopped
- 1 medium sweet onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 (28-ounce) can whole peeled plum tomatoes with basil
- 1½ cups vegetable broth
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- ⅓ cup heavy cream
- ⅓ cup chopped fresh basil
- Grilled Cheese Croutons

1. Sauté peppers and onion in a large Dutch oven in melted butter over medium-high heat 10 minutes until golden and tender. Stir in garlic and next 2 ingredients and cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute. Stir in tomatoes and next 4 ingredients.

2. Crush tomatoes into chunks with the back of a spoon. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer 15 minutes. Stir in cream and basil; season with salt and pepper. Top with Grilled Cheese Croutons.

Grilled Cheese Croutons: Rub 4 thick slices of toasted multigrain sourdough bread with a garlic clove. Place on a baking sheet; sprinkle with 1¼ cups shredded aged white Cheddar cheese. Broil 2 minutes or until cheese is melted and golden. Let stand 1 minute; cut into 1½ inch pieces.

PER SERVING: protein: 11 g; fat: 18 g; carbohydrate: 30 g; fiber: 4 g; sodium: 682 mg; cholesterol: 53 mg; calories: 321.



Chicken Tortellini Soup

MAKES 6 servings
WORKING TIME 15 minutes
TOTAL TIME 35 minutes

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 large garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 2 teaspoons fennel seeds
- 6 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken breast
- 2 (3-inch) pieces of Parmesan rind (optional)
- 1 large zucchini, halved lengthwise and sliced
- 1 (9-ounce) package refrigerated cheese-filled tortellini
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Toppings: Grated Parmesan cheese and fresh torn basil leaves

- 1.** Sauté onion in hot oil in large saucepan over medium heat 5 minutes or until tender. Add garlic and next 2 ingredients and cook, stirring constantly, 2 minutes.
- 2.** Stir in broth and next 2 ingredients; cover and simmer 10 minutes. Add zucchini and tortellini and simmer 7 minutes.
- 3.** Stir in tomatoes and lemon juice and cook 2 more minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Discard Parmesan rinds. Serve with grated Parmesan cheese and basil.

PER SERVING: protein: 27 g; fat: 12 g; carbohydrate: 29 g; fiber: 3 g; sodium: 296 mg; cholesterol: 58 mg; calories: 323.

Broccoli Florentine Bisque

MAKES 6 servings

WORKING TIME 15 minutes

TOTAL TIME 30 minutes

- 1 (5-ounce) package baby spinach**
- 4 tablespoons butter**
- 1/2 medium sweet onion, diced**
- 5 tablespoons all-purpose flour**
- 4 cups low-sodium chicken stock**
- 4 cups packed fresh broccoli florets**
- 1/2 cup heavy cream**
- Greek yogurt**
- Lemon zest**

- 1.** Snip end of spinach bag and microwave 2 minutes or until wilted. Squeeze excess liquid from spinach.
- 2.** Sauté onion in melted butter in a large saucepan over medium heat until translucent, about 5 minutes. Add flour and cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute. Whisk in stock; stir in broccoli. Bring to a boil; reduce to a simmer and cook, stirring occasionally, 10 minutes or until broccoli is tender.
- 3.** Stir in wilted spinach and cream. Process soup with an immersion blender (or carefully in batches in a blender) until smooth. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve with Greek yogurt and lemon zest.

PER SERVING: protein: 9 g; fat: 16 g; carbohydrate: 13 g; fiber: 2 g; sodium: 90 mg; cholesterol: 48 mg; calories: 214.





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*Spiced chocolate
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recipe on page 96

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"poison" candy apples

recipe on page 96



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Peanut Butter Acorns, recipe on page 97; Meringue Ghost Tartlets, recipe on page 97; Almond Shortbread Owls, recipe page 98; Cereal Bar Hay Bales, recipe on page 98. **OPPOSITE:** Chocolate Pumpkin Witch Cupcakes, recipe on page 98.



chocolate pumpkin witch cupcakes



See page 34
for a witch
broom how-to!

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THE RECIPES



SPICED CHOCOLATE BAT COOKIES

Makes: 1 dozen / Working Time: 45 minutes
Total Time: 2 hours, 30 minutes

- 2½ cups flour
- ½ cup dark cocoa powder, plus additional for dusting
- ½ teaspoon ground cardamom
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon fine sea salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¾ cup dark brown sugar
- 1½ sticks unsalted butter, softened
- 1 large egg
- ½ cup unsulphered molasses
- Silver edible sugar pearls (available from cake-decorating stores), for decorating
- Granulated sugar, for decorating

1. In a large bowl whisk together first 7 ingredients until well combined; set aside.
2. Place sugar and butter in a large bowl; beat using the paddle attachment of an electric mixer. Add egg and beat until pale and fluffy, about 4 minutes. Add molasses, and mix to combine. Add flour mixture and beat until just combined, about 1 minute.
3. Divide dough in half. Place each between two pieces of parchment paper, and roll to a ¾-inch-thick disk. Refrigerate 1 hour.
4. Heat oven to 325°F. Dust countertop with cocoa powder.
5. Transfer dough to countertop and cut cookie shapes with a 6-inch bat-shaped cutter (\$9.95; amazon.com) or desired size (adjust baking time accordingly). Repeat with remaining dough. Place 1 inch apart on parchment paper-lined baking sheets.

6. Bake about 12 minutes, rotating baking sheets halfway through baking, until cookies are crisp. Lightly press 2 sugar pearls into each cookie for eyes. Let cookies cool for 5 minutes on baking sheets; transfer to wire rack to cool completely.

7. Use a pastry brush to lightly coat the tops of the bat wings with water. Sprinkle with sugar and allow to set.



“POISON” CANDY APPLES

Makes: 12 candy apples / Working Time: 40 minutes / Total Time: 1 hour

- 12 baby Granny Smith apples, at room temperature
- 12 (8-inch) wooden candy apple sticks or dowels
- 1½ cups sugar
- ½ cup light corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon black gel paste food coloring

1. Wash and dry apples thoroughly. Place on a baking sheet and poke firmly with dowels. Line a second baking sheet with buttered parchment paper, and set aside.
2. Place a candy thermometer in a medium saucepan and add sugar, ¾ cups water, and corn syrup. Place over medium heat; whisk until sugar is dissolved. Let the temperature rise without stirring until it reaches the hard-crack mark at 310°F. Remove pan from heat. Carefully remove thermometer, and add food coloring.
3. Swirl pan to mix in the color completely. Swipe and twirl the apple through the candy, shake off excess, and place on buttered baking sheet. Repeat with remaining apples.



PEANUT BUTTER ACORNS

Makes: about 4 dozen / Working Time: 15 minutes

Total Time: 35 minutes

- 3/4 cup smooth natural peanut butter**
- 3/4 cup sugar**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla**
- 1 large egg**
- 1 tablespoon flour**
- 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips, divided**
- 48 chocolate kisses, wrappers removed**

- 1.** Heat oven to 350°F. Beat first 5 ingredients in a bowl using an electric mixer until well combined.
- 2.** Spoon dough by rounded 1/4 teaspoonfuls onto an unlined baking sheet. Flatten each piece of dough into a dome shape.
- 3.** Bake about 10 minutes or until golden around edges, rotating baking sheet halfway through baking. Let cool for 5 minutes on baking sheets.
- 4.** Microwave 1/4 cup mini chips in a small heat-proof bowl on high for 30 seconds, stirring at 10-second intervals. Dip the bottom of each chocolate kiss in melted chocolate, and place on the flat side of each cookie. Use the same method to affix a mini chip "stem" to the top of each cookie, completing the acorn.



MERINGUE GHOST TARTLETS WITH GRAHAM CRACKER CRUST

Makes: 8 tartlets / Working Time: 2 hours

Total Time: 2 hours, 30 minutes

GRAHAM CRACKER CRUST

- 8 large graham cracker planks (1 packet)**
- 1/3 cup sugar**

- 6 tablespoons melted butter**

CHOCOLATE GANACHE

- 1/2 cup heavy cream**
- 4 ounces bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped**

MERINGUE GHOSTS

- 1 1/2 cups sugar**
- 6 large egg whites**
- 1 teaspoon cocoa powder**

- 1.** Heat oven to 350°F.
- 2.** To make Graham Cracker Crust: Crush graham crackers into pieces. Transfer to the bowl of a food processor; add sugar. Process until crackers form a very fine crumb. Add butter, and pulse to combine.
- 3.** Pack graham cracker mixture into 8 (2 1/2-inch) mini tart pans; transfer to a baking sheet, and bake 20 minutes or until the edges of tartlets darken slightly. Let cool.
- 4.** To make Chocolate Ganache: Heat cream in a small saucepan over low heat until barely simmering. Remove from heat, add chocolate, and whisk well until very smooth. Spoon into graham crusts.
- 5.** To make Meringue Ghosts: Heat 3 inches of water in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring to a boil, and reduce heat to low. Place sugar and egg whites in a heat-proof bowl. Place bowl over the water and whisk to combine the sugar and egg whites. Stir constantly until sugar is dissolved and mixture is hot to the touch. (Rub a bit between your fingers. If it feels gritty, the sugar has not dissolved.)
- 6.** Remove bowl from the stove and beat egg white mixture with the whisk attachment of an electric mixer until shiny stiff peaks form. Transfer meringue to a plastic pastry bag, snip the end to about 1 1/2 inches wide, and pipe 4-inch-tall ghost shapes onto the ganache.
- 7.** Use a small paint brush dipped in cocoa to form the eyes and mouth. Serve immediately.

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E AN AD.**

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CEREAL BAR HAY BALES

Makes: 6 hay bales / Working Time: 35 minutes
Total Time: 45 minutes

- 5 tablespoons butter, plus more for pan**
- 2 (3-ounce) packets shredded wheat**
- 15 ounces marshmallows (about 1½ bags)**
- 6 cups puffed rice cereal**
- 6 licorice laces**

- 1.** Butter an 8-inch square pan. Crush shredded wheat in a bowl to make fine splinters.
- 2.** Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium-low heat. Add marshmallows and stir to melt completely. Stir in rice cereal. Use a rubber spatula to toss mixture and coat cereal completely.
- 3.** Turn mixture out into the prepared pan, use the spatula to flatten the mixture into the pan.
- 4.** Remove square of cereal treats from pan to a cutting board. Cut in half horizontally, and then make 2 evenly spaced vertical cuts to form 6 rectangles.
- 5.** While bars are still warm, pat the sides with crushed shredded wheat. Wrap each bale with licorice laces.



ALMOND SHORTBREAD OWLS

Makes: 2 dozen / Working Time: 45 minutes
Total Time: 2 hours

- 1½ cups sliced almonds, divided**
- 2 cups all-purpose flour**
- Zest of one lemon, finely grated**
- ½ teaspoon fine sea salt**
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened**
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar**
- ¾ teaspoon almond extract**

- ¼ cup chocolate chips**
- ¼ cup whole almonds**
- 2 tablespoons shelled sunflower seeds**

- 1.** Heat oven to 350°F. Use a coffee grinder or food processor to grind ¾ cups sliced almonds into a fine meal. In a large bowl, whisk ground almonds with flour, zest, and salt; set aside.
- 2.** Combine butter, sugar, and extract in a large bowl and beat, using an electric mixer, until smooth. Add flour mixture, and stir until combined. Divide dough in half. Flatten each piece into a ½-inch-thick slab and wrap tightly with plastic wrap; refrigerate 1 hour or until firm.
- 3.** Cut circles out of dough using a 2½-inch diameter round cookie cutter. Place 2 inches apart on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Use scraps of dough to make ¼ teaspoon rounded balls of dough for the eyes. Lightly press two balls onto the top of each circle and place a whole almond on its side between them for the beak. Insert a chocolate chip in each dough ball to make the pupil. Use sunflower seeds to make the owls' toes. Overlap 3 sliced almonds on each side for wings.
- 4.** Bake about 20 minutes, rotating baking sheets halfway through baking, until the edges of cookies are lightly golden. Let cool on baking sheet for about 5 minutes; transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.



CHOCOLATE PUMPKIN WITCH CUPCAKES

Makes: 12 cupcakes / Working Time: 40 minutes
Total Time: 1 hour, 30 minutes

- ⅓ cup cocoa powder**
- 1 cup all-purpose flour**
- ¾ teaspoon baking soda**
- ¾ teaspoon fine sea salt**

- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon**
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger**
- ⅛ teaspoon ground allspice**
- 1⅓ cup brown sugar**
- 11 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened**
- 3 large eggs**
- ¾ cup pumpkin puree**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract**
- Hazelnut Cream Cheese Frosting**
- 6 ounces black candy melts**
- 12 pointy sugar ice-cream cones**
- Black paper cupcake liners**

- 1.** Heat oven to 350°F.
- 2.** Whisk first 7 ingredients in a medium bowl to combine. In a large bowl, beat sugar and butter using an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add eggs and pumpkin puree, and beat to combine. Stir in vanilla. Add flour mixture, and beat until well combined.
- 3.** Line a 12-cup muffin pan with paper liners. Divide mixture among prepared muffin cups, filling each ¾ full.
- 4.** Bake for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cupcake comes out clean.
- 5.** Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Microwave candy melts in a heat-proof bowl on high for 30 seconds, stirring at 10 second intervals. Use a pastry brush to cover the ice-cream cones with the candy melt. Set on baking sheet to dry. Cut a 1¾ inch diameter hole in the center of a paper cupcake liner. Place over candy-coated ice-cream cone to form the brim of the witch's hat.
- 6.** Frost cupcakes with Hazelnut Cream Cheese Frosting. Top each with a witch's hat.

HAZELNUT CREAM CHEESE FROSTING
Makes enough for 12 cupcakes

- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese**
- 2 sticks unsalted butter**
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar**
- ¼ cup hazelnut chocolate cream spread**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla**

Place all ingredients in a large bowl. Beat until light and fluffy using the whisk attachment of an electric mixer.

**Halloween
Bonus!**

FREE SPOOKY LABELS!

To create a festive sweets buffet, pair treats from the previous pages with a selection of plain old candy in glass jars that feature these downloadable labels. (Available at countryliving.com/halloween.)



FOR CANDY CORN



FOR JELLY BEANS



FOR JAWBREAKERS



FOR BLACK LICORICE



SLOW-COOKER SUPPER

Chicken with Fall Vegetables

Need something healthy and hands-off? Look no further than this easy-yet-impressive dinner that's sure to please your whole flock.



HERBED CHICKEN WITH BEETS & BRUSSELS

MAKES 6 servings / PREP TIME 20 minutes / TOTAL TIME 8 hours, 20 minutes

- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 1½ teaspoons dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1 (4-pound) whole chicken
- 1 lemon, halved
- 1 large celery rib, cut into chunks

- 1 red onion, cut into eighths
- 4 garlic cloves, crushed
- ½ pound baby carrots
- ¾ pound small assorted beets
- 12 large Brussels sprouts
- 1½ teaspoons Dijon mustard
- Garnish: fresh rosemary leaves

1. Stir together first 4 ingredients. Remove and discard neck and giblets from chicken. Sprinkle chicken with salt mixture. Place lemon into cavity of chicken. Tie legs together with kitchen string, and tuck wingtips under.
2. Place celery, onion, and garlic in

a single layer in a lightly greased 6-quart slow cooker. Place chicken on top of onions, breast side up. Arrange and tuck remaining vegetables around chicken. Sprinkle vegetables with any remaining salt mixture.

3. Cover and cook on low 8 hours or until done. Remove chicken to a serving dish. Rub skins from beets and cut into quarters; arrange with other vegetables around chicken. Garnish with rosemary. Whisk mustard into remaining cooking juices in slow cooker; season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve sauce with chicken.

PER SERVING: protein: 29 g; fat: 7 g; carbohydrate: 14 g; fiber: 5 g; sodium: 748 mg; cholesterol: 82 mg; calories: 238.

4 EASY RICE UPGRADES

Freshen up a pantry staple with these out-of-the-box ideas.

1

WILD RICE (Shown at left)

Sauté chopped shallots in butter until golden. Stir in sweetened dried cranberries, toasted walnuts, and a splash of white wine. Fold in hot cooked wild rice and chopped fresh parsley.

2

BROWN RICE

Sauté minced garlic and chopped fresh spinach in olive oil until wilted. Fold in cooked brown rice, golden raisins, toasted pine nuts, and a pinch of nutmeg.

3

BASMATI OR JASMINE RICE

Sprinkle hot cooked rice with seasoned rice wine vinegar. Fold in grated carrots, thinly sliced green onions, and toasted sesame seeds.

4

ARBORIO RICE

Cook rice with diced canned tomatoes and chicken stock until just tender. Stir in grated Parmesan cheese, chopped fresh basil, and a dash of cream, stirring until melted and creamy.

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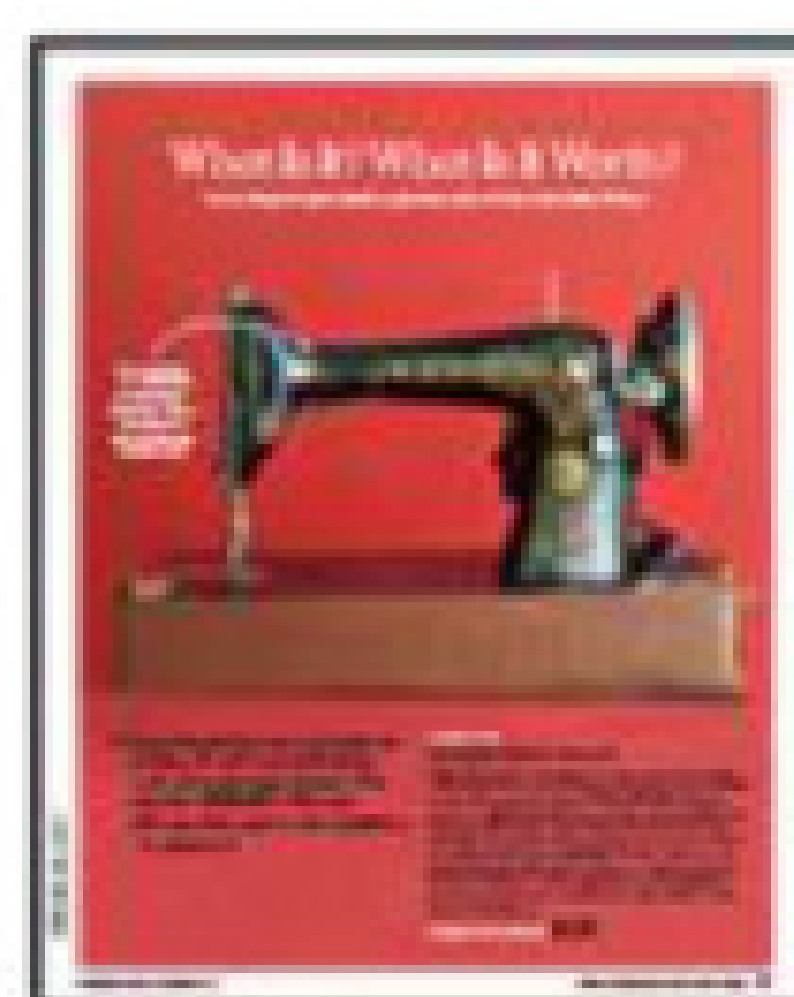
resource guide

Your go-to guide for replicating the looks featured in this issue



THE COLLECTOR'S GUIDE

page 21 RH-272 vintage floral wallpaper, \$200/roll; secondhandrose.com. **page 22** Costello wallpaper, \$52.50/roll, and Romance wallpaper, \$37.50/roll; both from grahambrown.com. **page 23** Cottage garden wallpaper, \$87.50; grahambrown.com. **page 24** Banbury Plumbago wallpaper, cole-and-son.com for retailers. Botanical floral wallpaper by Kelly Hoppen, \$59.40/roll; grahambrown.com.



WHAT IS IT?

WHAT IS IT WORTH?

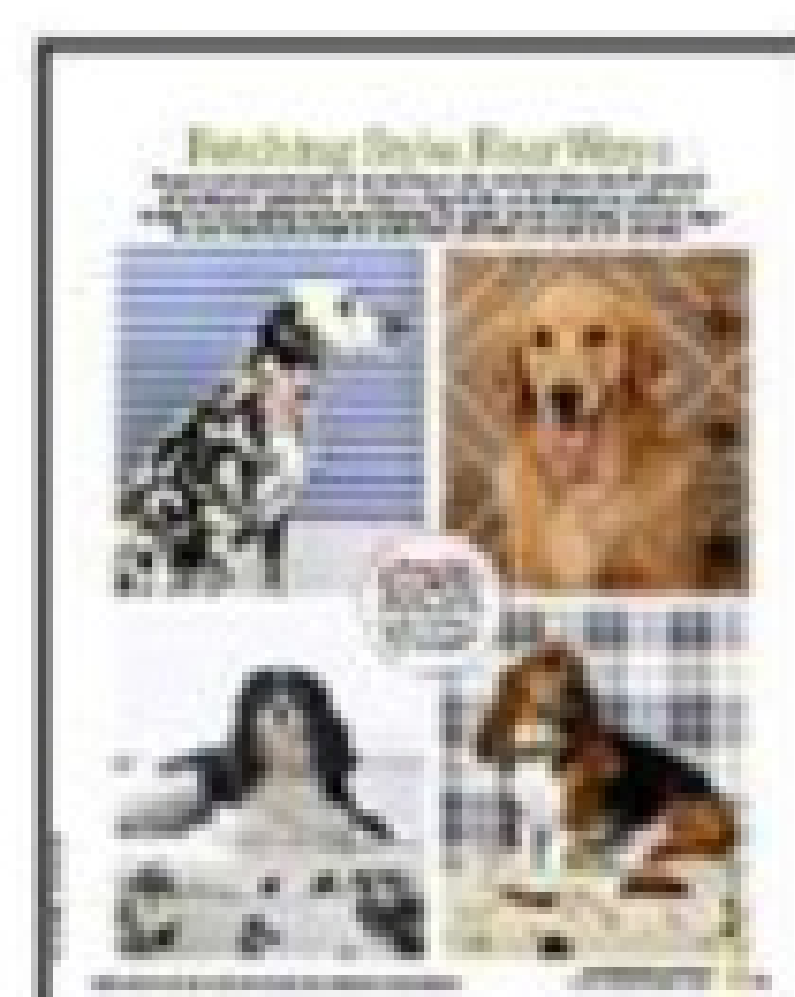
page 27 Singer sewing machine; riverhousedesigns.etsy.com. **page 28** Red Sabre camera; highplacesphotos.etsy.com. Sewing kit; nouveaumotley.etsy.com. Measuring tape; oldtextiles.etsy.com. Wooden bobbins; chanteduc.etsy.com.



BED & BREAKFAST

page 39 Headboard fabric, Claire Fairblanca by Charlotte Moss, \$62/yard; fabricut.com. Antique French bedside table; kingshouseantiques.com. Paris lamp, \$195; safavieh.com for stores. Euro sham and bed skirt fabric, Ikat Check in lavender, \$173/yard; kathrynireland.com for stores. Pete sheets, taupe and lilac queen, \$250; biscuit-home.com. Bindi Lavender decorative pillow cover, \$125; johnrobshaw.com. Lodge quilt in mist, from \$195; serenaandlily.com. Clara throw blanket in pear, from \$275; arealinen.shop.com. Modern bedside glass decanter set, \$26; highstreetmarket.com.

page 40 Newgate Covent Garden alarm clock, \$35; westelm.com. Natural custom roman shade by Levolor; \$55 for 36' x 72'; lowes.com. Munich trim in grass by Charlotte Moss, \$12/yard; www.calicocorners.com.



FETCHING STYLE, FOUR WAYS

page 44 Chairs, Riviera Black Windsor High Back, \$399; crateandbarrel.com. **page 46** Country Jute rug, \$329; surya.com. **page 48** Nantucket lamp, \$450, and natural barrel shade, \$60; both from simonpearce.com. Edie pillow cover in canary, \$45; birchlane.com. Gilia pillow cover, \$195; johnrobshaw.com. Polka dot pillow, \$195; ankasa.com. Natural Curiosities wall art, \$489; summerhouseinteriordesign.com. Terrance transitional chest, \$1,199; gabbyhome.com for stores. Urban Country large ceramic dog bowl, \$21; oreoriginals.com. **page 49** Safavieh ash gray table, \$135.98; overstock.com. Schumacher chintz fabric (chaise), \$88.20/yard; mahoneswallpapershop.com. Global round storage basket, \$31.99; target.com.



A MODERN CURE FOR CABIN FEVER

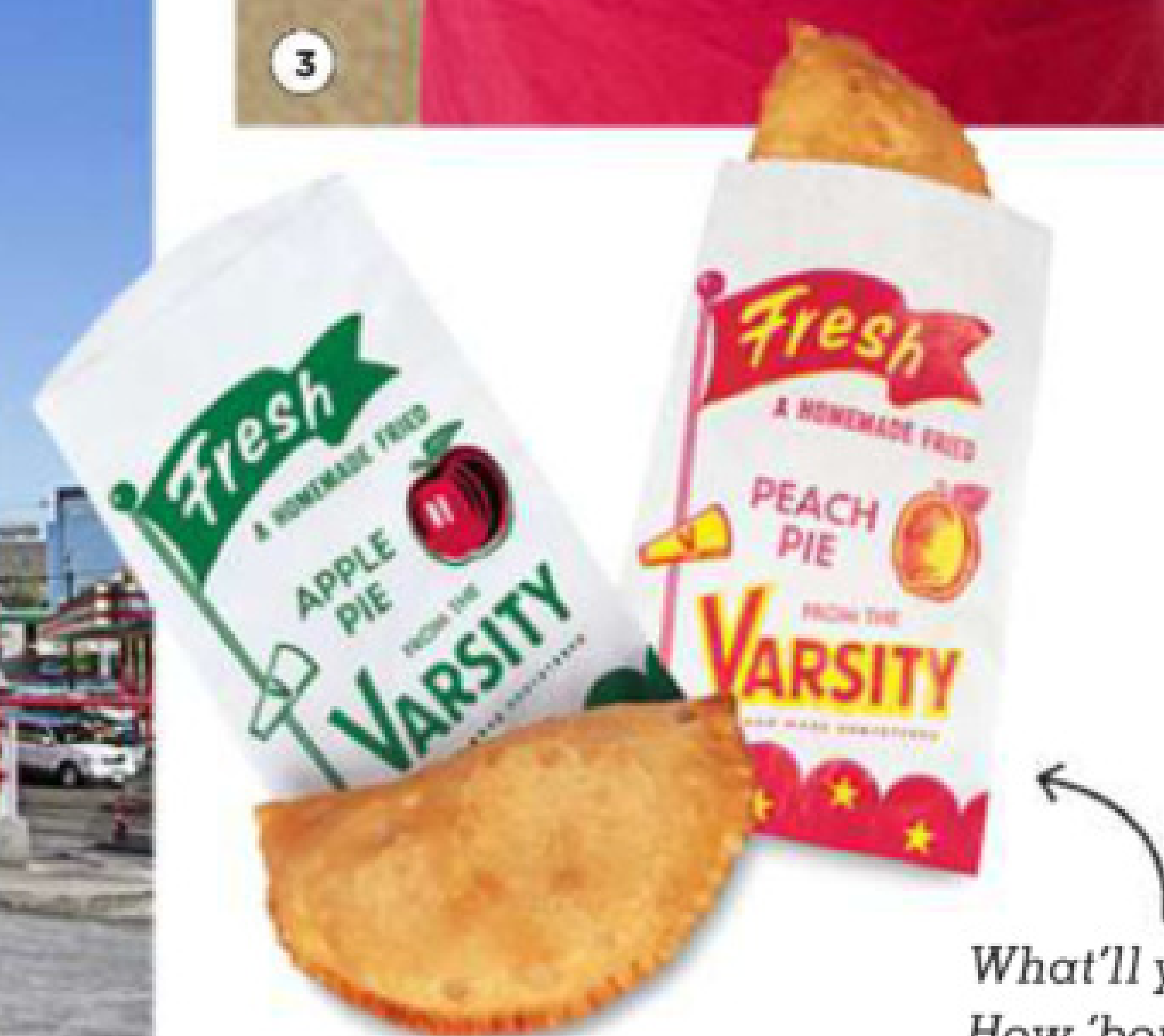
page 72 Henriksdal bar stools, \$89, Berta Ruta fabric, \$8.99/yard, and Numerar countertop, \$129; all from ikea.com. **page 73** Laurenza 8-light chandelier, \$549; ballarddesigns.com. Jamie Young barrel vintage leather lamp, \$650; lampsplus.com. **page 74** White shaggy rug, from \$52; hayneedle.com. **page 76** Navy gingham sheets, \$180 for full-size bed; serenaandlily.com. Nyponros pillowcases and duvet cover, \$39.99; ikea.com. Feiss Adan chandelier, \$800; hayneedle.com. **page 77** Cassidy single-handled faucet by Delta, \$258.83; homedepot.com. Atomic topless double wire guard sconce, \$255; barnlightelectric.com. **page 78** Minnetonka hats, from \$47.95; hayneedle.com.

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Portrait of America

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THE VARSITY/Atlanta, Georgia

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